



Director's Report
Presented to the GPA Board of Directors
May 15, 2018

Academic Events and Achievements

English/Language Arts (ELA)

Poetry month was a big hit as students and staff celebrated “Poem in your Pocket” day, various poetry slams, and our first ever GPA poetry contest hosted by the GPA library. The contest included a category for students in Ms. Davis’s art class to create original poetry with accompanying artwork which was showcased in our library. Playwrights Project for our 9th and 10th grade students wrapped up this month, and we will have a community performance on May 23rd where actors will perform plays and monologues written by our students. Grades 6-12 continue to use Achieve 3000 to grow non-fiction reading levels, and mentor novels to promote literature skills. The SDAWP is working directly with our AP English Language classes to support our 11th graders for the Academic Writing Placement Exam they will take as seniors next year. Approximately 60 students took a mock exam in March and teachers from SDAWP will be providing a workshop June 6th to give students feedback, as well as model for GPA teachers next steps in the revision process.

History

Our young 8th grade historians have been immersed in simulations of the Civil War as they battle using songs and interactive projects to learn perspectives for both sides of this historic event. AP History students in grades 10 -12 take their skills to the mat this month during AP testing. Scores will follow in early June. During June, our 7th and 10th grade history classes will engage in living museums where students will bring historical figures to life.

Science

April was a big month in the world of high school science labs. From 9th grade “Edible DNA Models” to 10th/11th grade “Neutralizing Stomach Acid” labs, GPA students increasingly engage in hands-on science, as they gear up for the next step in their science course sequence. Congratulations to the students of GPA’s AP Chemistry, AP Physics, and AP Biology, as they have nearly crossed the finish line by having completed the College Board exams as of May 14th. Scores to come in early July.

Math

April marked the end of the 6th Grade Math Enrichment program. All 6th-8th grade students are now entering the final push toward grade level proficiency through classroom instruction and independent progress through Learning Upgrade and Khan Academy. GPA middle school students have so far logged 15,308 hours on the Learning Upgrade program, and more grade level certificates of completion are expected throughout the fourth quarter. High school math students gear up for quarter finals and beyond, using IXL and Khan Academy to reinforce their learning as they too gear up for the next step in the math course sequence.

Spanish/Language Other Than English (LOTE)

Our Spanish classes continue to align and support language students from 8th grade through 12th. AP Spanish exams are underway, and our students will receive score by early June.

Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA)

In April, our Musical Production students put on their spring performance of 'Motown'. Students wowed the audiences with their best renditions of Motown favorites. This was the final performance for the year and we are so proud of our students for taking Musical Production to the next level. They have created such a buzz around campus that we had over 300 students audition for the 60 seats in Musical Production for next year.

Currently on display in the GPA library, you can find original pieces of recycled art from our high school Art students. As part of their Art Studies unit, after researching various artists in the field, students created recycled art in honor of Earth month. Students were tasked with creating a 'no waste' piece of art using only recycled items they found or from the earth.

Office of Student Affairs

Wednesday, April 4: Financial Aid Night Parents and students were invited to attend the 12th Grade Parent Meeting to go over Financial Aid. UCSD Financial Aid Officers presented on the following topics: Loans, Grants, and Scholarships. Workshop concluded with the UCSD admissions overview of Financial Aid Estimates.

Friday, April 6: 8th Grade A-G Presentation

The UC/CSU "A-G" presentation is shared with all 8th grade students to begin preparing and transitioning them to 9th grade. After the presentation, students will have an understanding of what the A through G requirements are and their importance as part of their pathway to high school graduation and college entrance. This presentation also serves as an opportunity to highlight the importance of all of their high school classes. Students are reminded that all classes taken from 9th grade on impact their final graduating grade point average, which, in turn, greatly influences available opportunities when applying to universities.

Monday, April 9 and Tuesday, April 10: MKC Gompers Scholarship Interviews

Potential MKC Gompers Scholarship recipients interviewed with the Weil family for a renewable college scholarship. 5 seniors students were awarded the MKC Gompers Scholarship (amount to be determined).

Monday, April 9: Future Triton Panel Discussion

GPA alumni currently attending UCSD came to speak to our 44 seniors admitted to UC San Diego. Alumni shared their transition from high school to college and their experiences as first generation college students.

Monday, April 16-Friday, April 20: MS Perfect Attendance Competition

Middle School first period classes were challenged to have perfect attendance for the week. All Middle School 1st period classes with perfect attendance for the week of April 16 - April 20th received rewards on Monday, April 23 during 1st period.

Monday, April 23: Chancellor's Scholar Reception

On April, 23 2018 UCSD/CASP hosted a reception at the Jo and Vi Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation. The reception honored select students from Gompers Preparatory Academy, Lincoln, Preuss, Helix, and Reality Changers who have been awarded the prestigious Chancellor's Associates Scholarship. Chancellor Khosla explained to all in attendance that the Chancellor's Scholars Program is a mentorship and leadership development program. Through this program the scholars will be afforded opportunities for ongoing academic and personal support.

Thursday April 19: Parents Preview – "Safe Spaces"

Parents of 6th and 7th grade students previewed the curriculum on Sexual Harassment Prevention, "Safe Spaces". The "Safe Spaces" curriculum is currently being delivered by counselor, Ms. Prater, through 7th grade ENS classes.

Saturday, April 21: GPA Founders Day Carnival

GPA hosted our third annual Founder's Day Carnival! The Parent Teacher Student Connection worked together to create a western themed, fun afternoon with food, games, and special performances!

Thursday, April 26: “Someone Like Me” Presentation

On April 26, 2018, 6th-8th grade students attended a one time presentation by the Kaiser Permanente educational theatre, the Bullying Awareness program titled, “Someone Like Me.” The central issue addressed by the play was bullying: cyber-bullying, sexual bullying, physical bullying and verbal bullying. “Someone Like Me” supports the Health Education Content Standards for California Public Schools in the areas of mental health, emotional and social health; injury prevention and safety; developmental growth, and sexual health.

Thursday, April 26: Experience GPA

Experience GPA was held to host 226 new 6th grade students and their families who have been admitted for the 2018-19 school year. Students and families learned about GPA’s mission, academic offerings, and campus life and much more, through a joyful and engaging presentation that included students, teachers and counselors. We look forward to welcoming our new students to GPA in the fall!

Friday, April 27: Student Leadership Presentation

On Friday, April 27th, the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute hosted the Student Leadership Presentation at GPA. Students were invited to attend this College Class joining Motivational Guest Speaker, Andres Lara.

May 2: CARE Center - Community Action Resource Engagement

Student Affairs has established a new partnership with the CARE Center. The CARE Center builds community partnerships to link resources by using a holistic evidence-based approach to improve the well-being of all. Our partnership, will allow GPA to further its ability to support high risk students and their families with neighborhood services.

Friday, May 4: Q3 Perfect Attendance Celebration

On Friday, May 4th the Office of Student Affairs celebrated and recognized Middle and High School students who maintained perfect school attendance for Quarter 3. Students were praised for their dedication to being in school and learning every day.

Monday, May 7 – Tuesday, May 8: SDYS “Here Now” Suicide Presentations

On May 7th and May 8th, San Diego Youth Services Program focuses on preventing suicide by educating our 7th grade students on the risk factors of suicide and reduce the stigma around seeking help for themselves or others.

Class of 2018 Update

- 101 out of 138 (73%) seniors have been admitted to a 4 year university.
- 52 (38%) were admitted to a university in the UC system.
- 97 (70%) were admitted to a university in the CSU system.

Facilities

Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Project

Our HVAC project is moving along as planned, with some minor hiccups along the way. Projected completion date is Fall 2018.

GPA Annex Offices (“West Wing”)

Our Annex offices across the street are coming together! Cubicles were installed over Spring Break and now have power. Once phone and Internet services are up and running, we will start moving over staff from Talent Services, Business Services, and Philanthropy.

New Construction

Construction designs for the new Athletics buildings have received DSA approval and have gone out to bid. We hope the construction contract can be awarded by the July 24 SDUSD Board of Education meeting. Projected start date for construction is late summer/early fall. Architect renderings are now available on the GPA Website and social media outlets!