



**Director's Report  
Presented to the GPA Board of Directors  
September 18, 2018**

**Disney Institute**

On August 22, 2018, the entire staff of Gompers Preparatory Academy (GPA), 174 people strong, met on the beautiful campus of the University of California, San Diego for an all day training on "Quality Service" provided by the Disney Institute. It was a revolutionary day of learning, centered on the key tenets of how focusing on the "methods behind the magic" can elevate an entire organization. This gift of high quality professional development aligned perfectly with our focus on "The GPA Way," as it emphasized high expectations for customer service and "continuous feedback equals continuous improvement." Our staff participated in several interactive learning experiences and learned from several "Behind the Scenes" Disney stories shared by the facilitators, focusing on how to ensure consistency between all systems, processes, and plans, so that the outcomes are intentional and focused on our common vision. Staff continue to share and reflect on a daily basis the ways they are implementing this powerful learning experience at GPA.

**Open House**

Open House is on Friday, September 21, 2018, from 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. The theme this year is "Paint the Night" and students grades six through twelve will be continuing the tradition of students leading guided tours of classrooms, introducing their teachers and showing their learning from the first five weeks of school. Our Musical Production students will perform in a Paint the Night parade in the front courtyard at 5:00, 6:45 and 7:45pm.

**Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment Induction Program (BTSA)**

For the second year in a row, GPA is proud to have a teacher induction program available through the El Dorado SELPA. Six of our current teachers have chosen to clear their preliminary teaching credentials through this teacher induction program. Participating teachers are excited and grateful for this opportunity.

**Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) Data**

This summer, GPA received our preliminary SBAC assessment data for the spring 2018 administration. Students in grades 6th - 8th and 11th were assessed in ELA and mathematics, according to the Common Core State Standards. GPA showed gains in the percentages of students meeting or exceeding in 6 of 8 sections. In mathematics, every grade level showed growth ranging from 3 to 7 percent. In ELA, 7th and 11th grades showed growth, while 6th and

8th grades saw a decline. GPA will continue to analyze data to create program modifications and interventions to accelerate academic achievement in both mathematics and ELA. Please keep in mind that this is preliminary data and official scores will be released later this fall.

### **SBAC Data Comparisons--Millennial Tech MS (MTM) and Lincoln HS**

Based on Spring 2018 preliminary data, GPA's 6th - 8th students are outperforming MTM by almost 10% in ELA and over 14% in Math. GPA's 11th grade students are outperforming Lincoln by almost 34% in ELA and almost 10% in Math.

### **WASC**

During the 2018-2019 school year, GPA will embark on a second WASC Self Study. Every six years, accredited schools conduct a self-study and host a self-study visit by an accreditation team. During this process GPA refines its schoolwide action plan and sets its course for the next six years. GPA and all stakeholders will conduct our self study during the current school year, and the WASC visiting team will visit during the 2019-2020 school year. We thank you in advance for your participation in this process.

### **English/Language Arts (ELA)**

This year ELA teachers will continue to use a combination of powerful instructional strategies, aligned with the common core state standards, to support all students on their paths towards becoming strong readers, writers, thinkers, and speakers. Achieve 3000 will launch in September for our 2nd year of actionable data for non-fiction reading, and mentor novels will continue to be used to expose students to literary fiction. Writing instruction will continue to focus around analytical writing, where students work on all aspects of the writing process, such as style, grammar, vocabulary, and punctuation. Turnitin.com and Flocabulary are ongoing tools the department will utilize to support growth for our writers. We anticipate working with Playwrights Project again this year in the upper grades, and working with San Diego Area Writing Project (SDAWP) on writing instruction.

### **History**

This year our history department will continue with the second year of implementation for the California History Frameworks. We added an additional section of Social Justice for our 9th graders that will be taught by a GPA veteran teacher. The history department will continue to support all aspects of literacy skills in their classrooms while developing an awareness, and appreciation, for events that have shaped the world as we know it. They will also take on a portion of the Achieve 3000 work this year, using primary sources and other articles to help deepen students' understanding and provide critical background knowledge. The department will analyze and pilot textbooks this year, to see what new adoptions might be best for GPA in 2019.

## **Science**

This year marks the third year of Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) implementation. With full implementation now in effect, science standards are further integrated across the subjects, and science instruction continues its shift toward phenomenon based, 3-dimensional learning. Students can expect to see increased frequency of “wet labs” as well as connections with community resources that bring science to the classroom and the classroom out into the world to explore. GPA partners and experiences include Mission Bay Aquatic Center, Groundworks EarthLab, and various UCSD STEM opportunities.

## **Math**

Students spent part of the first weeks of school completing initial assessments in their math classes. The assessment results will be used to inform instruction over the course of the school year and to inform grouping for targeted instruction. The assessment used for middle school, the Adaptive Diagnostic Assessment of Mathematics (ADAM), is directly linked to Learning Upgrade, and will assign courses and lessons specifically based on the individual student’s assessment results. The overall outcome is more targeted, differentiated independent work that better addresses individual students’ needs.

High school students will be using the Math Diagnostic Testing Project (MDTP) to inform both final course placement decisions and instructional decisions over the year. Also in high school math this year is a new curriculum adoption. High school math courses will now follow College Prep Mathematics (CPM), a Common Core aligned textbook and accompanying resources designed to place students at the center of learning through group exploration. The new adoption represents a significant change in the math instruction model. Trained during the summer and continuing to engage in professional development, the high school teachers have so far led a smooth transition into this new instructional model. GPA’s high school students have so far adapted well to the shift toward student-centered group work as the medium for tackling complex mathematical concepts.

## **Spanish/Language Other Than English (LOTE)**

This year our Spanish team continues to streamline our courses to help support students all the way to AP Spanish Literature. We are seeing success in our non-native class as students are now passing AP Spanish Language as non-native speakers. Our very own Ms. Avila was recently hired by UC Riverside to teach teachers at night. We are very proud of her and the entire Spanish department.

## **California Reading and Literature Project**

This year, Assistant Director Levenson and Instruction Lead Robinson will participate in the California Reading and Literature Project (CRLP) Administrator PLC Series, “All Means ALL.”

CRLP Signature Professional Development Programs support communities of educators who share responsibility for helping California's students develop the high levels of academic literacy and language required for success in higher education and the 21st-century workplace. This year's series will focus on Integrated and Designated English Language Development (ELD), Project-Based Inquiry and Learning, Accountable Talk and Talk Moves, ELPAC, SBAC, CAST, and CDE G.E. Initiative.

### **Commitment Day**

On Monday, August 27, 2018 the Office of Student Affairs invited our new cohort of 6th grade students to Commitment Day; our annual new student orientation. Parents and students received a formal introduction to the GPA family and together we celebrated the beginning of the new school year with a message from Director, a demonstration of GPA uniform expectations and a performance of the school song by GPA staff member, Ms. Shana Brown. Students and parents were given a tour of our campus, explaining all important areas and details, and spent time in their first period classrooms learning about GPA culture and traditions.

### **Convocation**

On Monday, August 27, 2018 Gompers Preparatory Academy hosted our annual Senior Convocation ceremony, honoring the new senior class, the Class of 2019. One hundred twenty five (125) seniors and their families gathered together for our traditional evening ceremony to welcome the start of their last year at GPA and the transition to college. Convocation marks the first time seniors can wear their special blue and silver senior tie and teachers honored each student at the ceremony by putting on their senior blazer and presenting each student with a white rose. Director Riveroll delivered a motivational keynote to the class of 2019 with the theme of "You Are Gold," concluding with, "You are precious, you are valuable, you are worth investing in."

### **Tunnel of Bullying--Interactions 4 Peace**

On September 12 and 13, Interactions for Peace presented the "Tunnel of Bullying: Beyond Bullying - Awareness, Education, Action" experience at GPA. Professional actors perform real life vignettes of bully, target and bystander situations in what is called the Tunnel of Bullying. All 6th and 7th grade students are visually made aware of various bullying behaviors and their effects. Immediately following the performances, the students participate in post-discussion groups. Finally, it is up to the students to develop their own action plan of how they will move Beyond Bullying.

### **Wingspan (College Counseling Center)**

Weekly presentations from various colleges and organizations will be presented by their representatives during the months of September and October. They will present information about their admissions process and avail themselves to answer any questions students may have.

San Diego Police Department  
San Diego City College  
Southwestern College  
University of San Diego  
Princeton University

NY Film Academy  
Cuyamaca College  
Fashion Institute of Design and  
Merchandise  
Grand Canyon University

### **Facilities**

With the ongoing installation of campus-wide air conditioning (expected to be completed by end of 2018) and the approaching launch of construction for our new gymnasium and athletic buildings, GPA is officially a construction zone! Our students and staff are very excited about the many facilities improvements coming to GPA over the next several years, and we are all focused on safety and flexibility as these projects progress.

Anticipating the impact of these projects, freeing up classrooms for increased enrollment, and seeing opportunities to try some new configurations for our middle school and high school classrooms and lunch areas, we moved close to 90% of our teachers and staff this summer. Our custodial team (C8) faced this herculean task with the enthusiasm and professionalism that they always exhibit, and were supported this summer by professional painters, movers, and carpet installers. Additionally, our Talent Services and Business Services teams, along with our Office of Philanthropy, have moved into our annex office space at Chollas View United Methodist Church across the street.

Once the construction schedule for the new gymnasium and athletic buildings is finalized by the District, we will set a date for our Groundbreaking ceremony. At this time, estimated completion date for the project is June 2020.

### **GPA Charter Renewal**

Our current charter with San Diego Unified School District is due for renewal on July 1, 2019. We will submit our charter renewal documents to the District this fall, in an effort to renew our charter before the end of the year or early 2019.