



**Director's Report
Presented to the GPA Board of Directors
March 19, 2019**

First Semester Honor Roll

307 students were celebrated for their academic and citizenship achievements for the first semester. Distinguished GPA scholars received a medallion, certificate and a citizenship pin for earning a grade point average of 3.5 or higher in both academics and citizenship. The distinguished GPA scholars were celebrated during two ceremonies, one for middle school and one for high school, attended by parents, students, and community members.

Senior Wing Ceremony

Senior GPA Eagles who have received an acceptance to a four-year college or university were pinned with wings and ceremonially celebrated in a beautiful way at the beginning of the high school honor roll program. A reception immediately followed to memorialize their final GPA honor roll walk.

Coffee with the Director

Coffee with the Director was held on Friday, February 8th. The GPA dining hall was packed with parents, some of whom heard for the first time the story of "Becoming GPA" presented by Director Riveroll. Director recounted the history of GPA from 2004 to present, "Becoming the New GPA". GPA's founding staff members fielded questions posed by the parents who expressed their desire to support GPA's continued great work and impact in southeastern San Diego.

Black College Expo

The Office of Student Affairs, transported students to the Black College Expo. This expo highlights over 50 of the 104 historically black colleges and universities along with other higher learning institutions and educational services across the nation.

"Comienza Con un Sueño"/"It Begins with a Dream"

On March 2nd, 28 GPA students attended, UCSD's "Comienza Con un Sueño". This event is designed to encourage first-generation low-income students to continue and pursue higher education. Students were afforded the opportunity to gain a plethora of information on how to gain entrance to college, how to succeed in college, and how to succeed after college, as well as information on careers. UCSD graciously provided transportation from GPA to

and from UCSD and the students received backpacks, giveaways, resources and a hearty lunch.

WingSpan Update

On March 5th, the entire class of 2019 completed their applications for San Diego City College. The Wingspan staff guided seniors through the application to ensure that all seniors have the option of a no-cost associate's degree if they choose.

Class of 2019 College Acceptance Update

85 out of 122 (70%) seniors have been accepted to a 4-year university. Acceptances continue to come in, many seniors are still anxiously awaiting to hear from our partnership school, UCSD.

Seniors have been accepted to the following 40 colleges and universities:

California State University

San Francisco State University

CSU Dominguez Hills

San Diego State University

CSU Bakersfield

CSU Fullerton

CSU Northridge

CSU Long Beach

CSU Channel Islands

CSU Los Angeles

CSU San Bernardino

CSU San Marcos

Sacramento State University

CSU Humboldt

CSU Cal Poly Pomona

CSU Chico

Fresno State University

University of California

UC Davis

UC Riverside

UC Santa Cruz

Private Universities

Whitworth University

Northern Arizona University

New York Film Academy

California Lutheran University

St John's University

Notre Dame De Namur University

Pacific University

Penn State University

Xavier University of Louisiana

Whittier College

University of the Pacific

Dillard University

University of San Diego

Millikin University

Grand Canyon University

University of Nevada Las Vegas

Montana State University

Xavier University

Brigham Young University

University of Cincinnati

University of East London

English/Language Arts (ELA)

The Playwrights Project wrapped up its final performances in our 9th and 10th grade classrooms. Professional actors brought our student's plays to life doing dramatic readings for every class. It is always a powerful experience for our students and staff. We look forward to a community performance on April 15th.

History

Our Social Justice teachers attended a conference at the Museum of Tolerance in February to better understand how to teach our students about race and equality in our country. They came back excited to share their ideas with staff and students. A small group of our 8th grade students attended the History Bee on March 16th to compete with other area middle schoolers.

Science

GPA science teachers provide ongoing opportunities for students to experience natural phenomena up close and hands-on. A recent trip to the Museum of Natural History had 7th grade students on a rigorous, academic quest to find answers to natural mysteries.

A 9th grade GPA student recently earned second place in her category and a Becton Dickinson sponsor award at the 2019 Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair.

Increasingly, GPA students are taking advantage of cost-free, grant funded STEM opportunities, such as drone camp and other technical learning experiences, as GPA strengthens its partnership with the nearby Elementary Institute of Science.

Math

As part of a continuous effort to raise student achievement, GPA's high school math teachers have moved deeper into curriculum training. As students adjust to the significant shift in approach that is made necessary by the new, Board approved curriculum, College Prep Mathematics (CPM), teachers are engaging in classroom and school intervisitations in order to share best practices. In the months ahead, GPA high school math teachers will begin to study student participation and engagement in the context of CPM implementation.

Spanish/Language Other Than English (LOTE)

Our GPA Spanish team continues to support all students as they progress up our vertically aligned Spanish courses. AP study sessions are in full swing as we move towards May. The Spanish team continues to collaborate regularly to discuss what students currently need and to monitor progress overall. Two of our Spanish teachers were provided the opportunity to be AP readers this June, to better understand the rigors of this exam from the inside.

Facilities

New Gymnasium and Athletic Buildings

In spite of several rain delays, construction is moving along nicely for our new buildings. All underground utility lines have been constructed and concrete pours for the building foundations began on March 14. We look forward to seeing our buildings start to take more vertical shape in the coming weeks.

Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning (HVAC)

The HVAC project has almost wrapped up, with contractors addressing “punch list” items before official closing of the project. We now have central heating and air conditioning campus-wide, and look forward to the positive impact this will have on teaching and learning in the coming months and years.