



**Director's Report**  
**Presented to the GPA Board of Directors**  
**May 14, 2019**

**National University Teacher Pathway Inclusion Press Conference**

On Wednesday April 24, National University hosted a press conference to announce their Teacher Pathway Inclusion Program. National University and GPA, along with San Diego Unified School District and the San Diego County Office of Education, have partnered to create a pathway program for students of color interested in teaching as a career. The pathway includes a bachelor's degree and teaching credential at no cost to students. CBS, NBC, Telemundo, and KUSI were on campus to cover the press conference. Along with the media, Dr. Shirley Weber (California State Assemblymember), Dr. Sharon Whitehurst-Payne (SDUSD School Board President), Dr. Michael Cunningham (Chancellor, National University), Dr. David Andrews (President, National University) and Dr. Paul Gothold (Superintendent, San Diego County Office of Education) were among the notable guests to be present for the conference. GPA alumnus and future teacher, Jameia Johnson, spoke about her time in the program and her excitement to become a teacher.

**UCSD CREATE Conference**

Seven GPA staff members attended the UCSD CREATE Conference, "Education is a Civil Right: Equity, Activism, and Inclusion." The yearly conference featured a keynote related to inclusive educational spaces, followed by breakout sessions that spanned the content areas, from fostering productive struggle and inclusivity in the classroom to facilitating math discussion and teaching tolerance.

**Advanced Placement Exams**

College Board AP exams began on May 6th and extend through May 24th. GPA is administering 306 exams this year and 172 students are taking Advanced Placement exams across various contents. This year 3 GPA teachers have been provided the time and opportunity by GPA to attend training as Advanced Placement "readers" - this will support them in understanding more about the rigors and expectations of the exams we offer.

**SDSU Admission Representative Visit--April 2nd**

San Diego State University admissions counselor Maria Thrasher gave a special presentation to 47 GPA seniors who have been admitted to SDSU. The presentation included information about the admission process, next steps to enroll, housing and resources on campus for first generation college students.

### **Graduation Requirement Presentations --April 2, 4, 16 and 17**

GPA counselors visited classrooms to remind students of GPA's graduation requirements. The presentation was shared with all 9th, 10th, 11th grade students. The goal of the presentation was to give students a clear understanding of GPA's graduation requirements as well as admission requirements for 4-year universities. Students were reminded that all classes taken after the start of 9th grade impact their high school grade point average; which, in turn, greatly influences available opportunities when applying to 4-year universities.

### **Financial Aid Night--April 4th**

Parents and students were invited to attend the 12th Grade Parent Meeting where UCSD Financial Aid Officers presented on the following topics: Loans, Grants, and Scholarships. Workshop concluded with the UCSD admissions overview of Financial Aid estimates.

### **ACT Prep--April 8, 22, 29**

11th grade students attended a series of ACT prep courses to prepare for the college entrance exam on Saturday, June 8th. Students receive test prep on the four sections: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science for this high stakes exam which will help determine their college readiness.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade A-G Presentation--April 3rd and April 5th**

The UC/CSU "A-G" presentation was shared with all 8th grade students to begin preparing and transitioning them to 9th grade. The goal of the presentation was to give students 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 and involvement in extracurricular activities in order to build a strong college application.

### **MKC/Gompers Scholarship Interviews--April 15th and April 16th**

Several GPA seniors interviewed with the Weil family for the MKC/Gompers scholarship. Fifteen students were selected to receive this renewable scholarship (amount to be determined).

### **Experience GPA--April 18th**

Experience GPA hosted 247 new 5th grade students and their families who have been given an opportunity to enroll for the 2019-20 school year. Students and families learned about GPA's mission, academic program, school culture, and much more. Director Riveroll welcomed families and shared that GPA is a special place, distinguished by our consistently high graduation and college acceptance rates, parent involvement, teacher retention, and student attendance. In addition, a group of current 6th grade students shared their GPA experience with the audience. At the conclusion of the presentation, parents made an appointment to complete the enrollment process with GPA staff.

### **SDSU Psychology Program Parent Meetings--April 15th - April 19th**

Gompers Preparatory Academy is partnering with the SDSU Psychology Program to provide social and emotional supports for teens who have been exposed to adversity and trauma, so that they are more likely to succeed at the middle/high school level and are prepared for college. SDSU plans to take a 3-step approach to (a) learn from the students about their needs through focus groups, (b) identify the neurological, emotional, and behavioral impacts of trauma that could be ameliorated through intervention, and (c) deploy a therapeutic intervention program. Parent Meetings were held April 15th-April 19th to provide families information about program.

### **ACT Registration--April 19th & April 22nd**

Counseling Staff registered all 11th grade students to take the June 8th ACT. This is a GPA school-wide initiative to ensure all students have the opportunity to apply to 4-year universities.

### **Perfect Attendance Celebration--April 25th**

The Office of Student Affairs celebrated and recognized a total of 83 Middle and High School students that maintained perfect school attendance for Semester 1, meaning no absences and no tardies. As a result of this accomplishment, the students received a certificate of achievement and a Jamba Juice treat during lunch. Each student's name was called and received a roaring applause from their classmates.

### **Class of 2019 Update**

#### **UCSD Chancellor's Associates Scholars Program (CASP) Reception--April 28th**

UCSD CASP hosted a reception at the Jackie Robinson YMCA to honor select students from Gompers Preparatory Academy, Hoover, Morse, Lincoln, Preuss, Hoover, e3 Civic, and Reality Changers who have been awarded the prestigious Chancellor's Associates Scholarship. Thirty-three out of the 35 GPA students who were admitted to UCSD were awarded the CASP 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.

### **Class of 2019 College Acceptances (Class Size: 120)**

- **Four Year Universities:** Eighty-nine seniors (74%) have been admitted to a 4 year university.
- **University of California:** Thirty-eight seniors (31%) were admitted to a university within the UC system.
- **California State University:** Eighty-five seniors (70%) were admitted to a university within the CSU system.

### **Class of 2019 College Decisions**

- **Four-Year Universities:** Sixty-one seniors (51%) will be attending a four-year university
- **Community College:** Fifty-nine (49%) senior will be attending a 2-year community college

### **Scholarships Awarded to Class of 2019 (as of May 14)**

CASP Scholarship	\$10,000/ per year (33 recipients)
MKC Scholarship	Amount Varies (15 recipients)
YMCA Scholarship	\$2000 (3 recipients)
San Diego Lions Club	\$1,500 (4 recipients)
CalRTA Scholarship	\$2,000 (2 recipients)

### **End of Year Evaluations**

During the month of April, and continuing through May 14th, the GPA leadership team has conducted end of year evaluations for all certificated staff members. The following essential comments were provided on each evaluation to serve as a roadmap of our work as we move into the 2019/2020 school year and beyond:

*“Gompers Preparatory Academy (GPA), is a successful and unique charter school founded to address the diverse needs of our students who have historically been underserved by the traditional systems of public education, and thus may be at risk of “falling through the cracks.” Teaching at GPA requires a depth of knowledge in regards to the diverse needs of our students, families, and the community.*

*Your ability to demonstrate and implement the California standards for the teaching profession and the GPA school-wide culture and norms, established 14 years ago, is paramount at GPA. Your ability to be highly creative, flexible, and a powerful instructor who is able and willing to address the pressing needs of our school and public education, is what our students deserve. The level of effectiveness in which you are able to implement the standards set forth, is critical to the success of our school and the students you serve. Having the willingness and ability to implement GPA culture, state standards and curriculum, and our charter mission, should be at the core of your work. The mission of GPA, in partnership with UCSD and our community is to accelerate academic achievement for all students through a college preparatory culture and curriculum.*

*It is essential that all GPA instructors are highly-skilled practitioners who are able to reach the needs of students at risk, students maintaining and students who are ready for acceleration using best practices in education. As you continue to address the achievement and opportunity gap in your classroom, your honest reflection of your teaching practices must move you towards excellence. Each year, strive for continued growth towards greatness and your students will follow. Providing students with a scaffolded, supportive, yet rigorous environment, requires a teacher to constantly refine their teaching from not just year to year, but day to day. Meeting with colleagues, leadership and most importantly parents, provides you an opportunity to meet the needs of the whole child in order to serve them with intentionality.*

*Your contributions toward closing the achievement and opportunity gap in the inner city, will require a willingness and ability, but most importantly, a common belief system of whatever it takes to put students first (i.e. ensuring students are safe, supporting students who need additional learning time, sharing joy and enthusiasm, and keeping kids at heart in all that you do and say). Thank you for your efforts to implement and inspire your students to adhere to the GPA culture. Please review your scores in each category. Reflect on areas of growth and areas of strength as you move forward with your practice. The success of our students is tied directly to your growth as their teacher.*

*Never stop learning, and never stop growing in your pedagogy. Utilize this evaluation to reflect, refine, and renew your practice. GPA leadership is here to support your implementation and development as a GPA teacher, and we look forward to seeing your growth.*

*On behalf of the leadership team, thank you for your contributions to strive to meet the specific and unique mission at Gompers Preparatory Academy.”*

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

We celebrated the month of April poetically as it was National Poetry month. ELA worked with the Library team to encourage students to enter the school-wide GPA Art and Poetry contest. It was our biggest turnout to date. There were 180 entries from middle school, high school, and staff combined. The winners were announced on April 29th, and all entrants were invited to a pizza party that afternoon to celebrate. Ms. Carol Hunter will return in May as our Reading Consultant to work with 6th, 8th, and 10th graders on their independent reading skills, and to support teachers with building their classroom libraries. Our ELA teachers are gearing up for statewide testing in grades 6, 7, 8, and 11, and for both AP Literature and AP Language. On April 29th, English teachers completed their final session (10 hours total for the year) of writing instruction through our on site San Diego Writing Project (SDAWP). Teachers completed reflections to share their learning and ideas for how they plan to implement strategies moving forward. One of our 11th grade students received a paid internship this summer at the Union Tribune as part of their Community Journalism Scholars Program. We are very proud of her for pursuing this opportunity and look forward to hearing all about her experience.

### **History**

Our History department took on Achieve 3000 alongside our ELA teachers this year, and as we head into the final weeks of school, they will be looking at their data overall to determine next steps for 2019-2020. Our AP History teachers head into AP testing this month, and have spent time creating engaging and interactive lessons in these final days before the test to encourage our GPA Eagles to push a little harder and reach for the stars. On April 29th, history teachers completed their final session (10 hours total for the year) of writing instruction through our on site San Diego Writing Project (SDAWP). Teachers completed reflections to share their learning and ideas for how they plan to implement strategies moving forward.

## **Science**

The emergence of true NGSS-aligned resources means that science teachers now have options for lesson plans, illustration of standards, and assessments banks that allow them added assurance that they are hitting the targets when planning standards based instruction. GPA science teachers have completed review of the curriculum options as their contribution to the selection of new, NGSS-aligned materials to implement beginning in the 2019-2020 school year.

AP Biology students recently traveled to San Diego's Safari Park Conservation Lab to supplement their learning around ecology and conservation as they head into College Board exam season. AP Chemistry and AP Physics students are also gearing up for their exams, with students attending exam prep sessions after school and on Saturdays to bolster their test readiness.

## **Math**

As GPA math teachers approach the end of their third year implementing the CCSS-aligned MathLinks curriculum, high school teachers are nearing the end of their first year with College Prep Math (CPM) curriculum. The pronounced change in instructional approaches required significant adjustments on the part of the student. Despite the disequilibrium that resulted from this shift, as expected, students have emerged as stronger collaborators, critical thinkers, and independent learners. CPM training is ongoing, and teachers will further engage in deepening their own understanding of the CPM approach.

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

The Spanish team will implement their annual Spanish assessment for 7th graders on Monday, May 13th. This data helps determine where to place our incoming 8th graders as they begin their World Language journey. The Spanish team is also gearing up for the AP Spanish Language and AP Spanish Literature exams this month.

## **Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA)**

Students have been busy in their Electives and Visual and Performing Arts courses. Our students taking Art 1/2 and Art 3/4 have just wrapped up their watercolor unit and are launching into Animals in Art and Ceramics units for the remainder of the year. Students will be having visitors from FIDM coming to share the pathways to the Fashion Design Industry. In Musical Production, the Triple Threat project is coming to an end. Students have been perfecting their craft in singing, dancing and acting with the help of our artists in residence and will launch their showcase the week of May 14th.

### **ASB and Electives:**

Students in ASB are gearing up for Senior Prom which will take place on May 18, 2019 at Deck 665 in downtown San Diego. This years prom will have games, karaoke, and dancing, with both indoor and outdoor space available. Carrying along the their convocation theme of “Gold” this years prom has the theme of “Gold & Glitz.”

The 2019 yearbook has been sent off to print. Students taking yearbook have worked hard to meet deadlines and create a yearbook to remember. GPA is expecting yearbooks available for sale at the beginning of June.

### **Schoolwide Self-Study Surveys**

Staff, parents, and students have all been given a schoolwide survey where they have the opportunity to share their thoughts, ideas, and comments. All input will be reviewed and will guide our WASC/LCAP work moving forward.

### **SELPA**

GPA continues to work closely with our El Dorado Charter SELPA this year. We have been busy collaborating on Non-Public School(NPS) placements, PIR requirements for the CDE, as well as ongoing committee meetings for professional developments.

### **State Testing (CAASPP)**

GPA will take part in State Testing this month from May 21st - May 31st. Students in grades 6, 7, 8, and 11 will take the SBAC and California Alternate Assessment (CAA) tests in both ELA and Math. Our 8th and 11th grade students will also take the California Science Test (CAST) during this time. Testing season is a very busy time at GPA. We are on a modified testing bell schedule, utilizing ‘all hands on deck’ to maintain our high testing participation rate and seamless test administrations.

### **Summer School**

The 2019 summer school program at GPA will be the largest in recent years. As of the end of semester one, there are a total of 674 courses that need to be recovered for credit by our students in grades 9-11 this summer. We are planning to offer more courses to address this need. Again, it will be ‘all hands on deck’ as we serve our students and provide this additional learning opportunity.



## **Master Schedule**

We are well into our master schedule planning for the 2019-2020 school year in order to meet the diverse needs of our students and support them on their continued college prep path. Creating our master calendar with students first takes time and attention; our leadership team is working diligently to accomplish this task. We are planning to have our master schedule complete before staff return in August.

## **Facilities**

### **New Gymnasium and Athletic Buildings**

Construction continues on these new buildings, with concrete being poured and masonry walls starting to be erected. We look forward to watching these buildings take shape in the coming months.

### **Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning (HVAC)**

Other than some minor troubleshooting, GPA now has air conditioning available in all classrooms and offices throughout the campus. The auditorium will need to be closed again in the summer for several weeks to install additional vents and ducts, to reduce the air flow noise for the new air conditioning system in that space.

### **Parent Petition to Improve Safety at 47th and Hilltop Drive**

The Office of Safety has been circulating a petition among our parents. The petition is a request to Councilmember Monica Montgomery and the City of San Diego to implement/install the following:

- Prominent “25 MPH SCHOOL ZONE” signs with flashing beacons as you approach campus along 47th street
- Protected Left Turn Signal on 47th Street & Hilltop Avenue
- Increasing the visibility of the “NO TURN ON RED” sign for drivers at the intersection of 47th Street & Hilltop Avenue
- Allow the placement of school signs/banners along the light posts in the area surrounding campus to remind drivers that they are entering a School Zone

These recommendations are important for our efforts to improve safety at the crosswalk that our students use to walk to and from school. Additionally, they will improve the flow of traffic during our morning and afternoon drop-offs and pickups.

### **Collective Bargaining with SDEA**

GPA began the official collective bargaining process with SDEA in April. Our next meeting is scheduled for May 16. GPA has offered dates in June to keep the process moving. Several draft articles have been passed by both sides and negotiations will continue in good faith in the coming months.