



**Director's Report
Presented to the GPA Board of Directors
September 17, 2019**

Commitment Day

On Thursday, August 22, the Office of Student Affairs invited our new cohort of sixth 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 the Director, a demonstration of GPA uniform expectations and a performance of the school song by GPA staff member, Ms. Shana Brown. Students and parents spent time in their first period classrooms learning about GPA culture and practices. Students, along with their parents, were given a tour of our campus, explaining all important areas and details.

Senior Convocation

On Friday, August 29 Gompers Preparatory Academy hosted our annual Senior Convocation ceremony honoring the Class of 2020, that includes 142 seniors this year. Seniors and their families gathered together to welcome the start of their last year in high school before going off to college. They received their striped senior tie and teachers honored each student by putting on their senior blazer and presenting each student with a white rose.

2018-2019 Semester 2 Honor Roll

During the first week of school, students who earned a 3.5 gpa in both academics and citizenship were honored with a celebration. Students were treated to a Tostiloco bar, received a certificate, medal of honor, and lapel pin. A total of 287 (142 middle school students and 145 high school) students were honored.

Senior Parent Night: College Applications 101

On Thursday, September 5th we invited senior parents to attend the first of a series of parent workshops. This workshop informed parents on four year colleges, the application process, important dates and deadlines, and the class of 2020 senior commitments.

Perfect Attendance Celebration

The Office of Student Affairs celebrated and recognized a total of 91 students (46 Middle and 45 High School students) who maintained perfect school attendance for Quarter 4 of the 2018-19 school year. As a result of this accomplishment, the students earned a Jamba Juice during lunch.

English/Language Arts (ELA)

ELA teachers continue to implement Achieve 3000 to monitor and support non-fiction reading skills, and administered our initial assessment on September 10th. The first on-demand writing assessment also takes place in September, as well as completing student reading surveys.

All ELA teachers received their literacy calendar for the year that includes their GPA library rotation schedule. The library team is now using google classroom along with their library lessons in order to support the learning taking place during library visits.

History

History teachers are continuing to use the updated state frameworks and this will be their second year implementing Achieve 3000 alongside ELA. Textbook adoption will begin this year for History teachers in non- AP courses. Both high school and middle school history teachers are preparing for Open House.

Science

Middle School Science teachers are implementing a new NGSS-aligned (Next Generation Science Standards) curriculum with SmartNGSS. Through this interactive program, students will engage in science and engineering practices to construct understanding of natural phenomena while they learn core scientific ideas and identify patterns and concepts in multiple real-life contexts.

High School Science teachers are continuing to integrate technology and engineering standards into our current coursework (Biology, Chemistry, Physics). Students make sense of scientific phenomena by building models, constructing evidence-based explanations and arguing from evidence.

Math

Sixth grade students had a head start on math this summer. Over 200 of GPA's incoming 6th grade students took the ADAM (Adaptive Diagnostic Assessment of Mathematics) prior to the start of school. The data, along with that of returning 7th and 8th graders who were assessed in June, provides middle school math teachers with preliminary information about their classes. It also allows all 6th through 8th graders to springboard into Learning Upgrade's "Math Edge 2.0" in the first weeks of school. Math Edge targets students based on their specific, individual strengths and needs. Throughout the ongoing work of Common Core alignment, driven by MathLinks as the curriculum, Math Edge allows students to fill skill gaps while some students eagerly pursue advanced levels of learning.

With the new school year, high school students enter their second year with CPM (College Prep Math) curriculum. With that, they enter a second round with the high-independence, student-centered, problem-based demands of the program. The goal is to increase teacher facility for CPM instruction and bolster student learning and confidence with each year deeper into CPM implementation.

Spanish/Language Other Than English (LOTE)

LOTE teachers will be attending professional development in October to learn the new World Language standards. They continue to align their curriculum to provide a solid and supported pipeline for students who are Spanish speakers and non- native speakers to progress up the vertical pathway to AP Spanish language and literature.

Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA)

GPA's VAPA classrooms are preparing for Open House and creating experiences for GPA students with art, music, dance and computer based lessons.

Professional Development

Director Riveroll launched the new school year with two days of dynamic professional development, teaching the GPA staff master teacher moves and introducing them to our mentor text for the year, What Great Teachers Do Differently. Staff had time to read, draw, and share in order to learn and think deeply. Staff also learned important school safety procedures, HR procedures, and spent time practicing essential GPA culture lessons to teach students the first week of school.

WASC Self Study

This year we will reflect on our work as a school by reviewing our data, analyzing our Student Learner Outcomes, reviewing and revising our Action Plan as we embark on our WASC Self Study. All staff members will be provided with the opportunity to participate in this important reflective process. WASC committee visitors will come to GPA in April.

Facilities

Over the summer, teams of welders, masons, and electricians made great progress on constructing our new gymnasium/event center, locker rooms, dance studio, and weight room. The buildings are really starting to take shape and crews are preparing to install rooftops and start work on the interiors. Additionally, construction began on the new concrete pathway to the GPA tennis courts and Sixth Grade Village. Even with several rain delays, construction is on schedule and estimated to be completed by late Spring 2020. Additionally, our campus-wide Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning project is almost complete, with only a few rooms requiring some additional work. Students and staff are starting to benefit from more comfortable indoor environments throughout campus.