Happy New Year

As we approach the beginning of a new decade, I can’t believe it is 2020. We are looking to help Compass grow so we can meet the needs of more students and to be able to offer more options for them. Our open house in January was a big success and we continue to get inquiries about our program for next year.

We have had two new families join us at the semester. Gio Morey and Sara Kate Schultz are both 9th graders. It is wonderful when we can add new families to our Compass community. We welcome them and hope the community will have an opportunity to get to know them during the rest of our school year.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Advisory Activity

One of the benefits of an Advisory Program is being able to help students understand and reflect on the important events and topics—both in our history and in current events. On Friday, January 17, we previewed the reason for MLK Day and the importance of the “I Have a Dream” speech and the march on Washington in 1963.

While students have surely heard the speech before, understanding the context and the details is often overlooked. For example, most people do not know Dr. King was able to speak only because no one wanted the last spot, as they feared people would leave. Also, the “I Have a Dream” portion of the speech was added at the end when someone in King’s group yelled out, “Tell them about your dream!” near the end of his prepared remarks.

In advisory on January 17, we discussed this and watched the speech while students created art related to the speech. Many students did not worked on these both Friday and Tuesday. Samples of the students’ work around this activity appear in this newsletter.

We continue to use our Advisory time as a way to talk about social-emotional skills and issues. We also use the time for relevant lessons that help build community and foster a greater understanding of the larger world.
Summer School Option

In the summer of 2020, we are offering a program designed to help students develop the study skills they need and allow them to have fun with technology. This program is set for rising eighth and ninth graders and is composed of two parts. The first class will focus on academic skills using the Salem Witch Trials as the backdrop for content. Students will learn to read critically; take notes from different forms of information; and explore a fascinating time in American history. Together we will also take quizzes and tests focusing more on the process of studying so students can master both strategies. Selecting content like the Salem Witch Trials helps increase student engagement because the subject matter itself is so appealing that acquiring study skills comes much more naturally for students.

We will have tests and quizzes, too, so students can practice and use the skills while studying. We will also talk about how we approach tests and discuss the skills we can use while taking any exam. We will work on all of these over the four weeks of the class.

The second part of the day will focus on technology. GarageBand is a fully-equipped music creation studio with a complete sound library that includes instruments, presets for guitar and voice, and an incredible selection of session drummers and percussionists. Students can create a unique song importing instruments or can alter their favorite pop music, adding loops to make it their own. The Photos app allows students to make slide shows and to alter pictures and other images, and iMovie brings all this together in one single film. With state-of-the-art effects connected in an easy-to-use platform, iMovie has become the gold standard for novice movie making. While it lacks the professional ability of Final Cut Pro or Adobe Premiere, it has many features set up in an easier to use and master format.

Meet Barbara Norman

Ms. Norman will be taking over both Spanish I and II starting this week. She has a BA in Linguistics from the University of Hawaii and Masters in Education from Fox University in Oregon. She taught high school Spanish for four years while in Oregon and also created a middle school Spanish program in California. She has also worked as an ESL teacher in multiple schools.

She has worked in supporting adults with both acquisition of Spanish and teaching English as a second language in adult settings. She will be working with Ms. Marks to ensure a smooth transition as the instructor for the rest of this year.

Ms. Norman will be on campus on B days. Her email address is bnorman@compasshigh.org She will be reaching out to the families taking Spanish early next week as she begins to work with the students more regularly. We welcome Ms. Norman to our Compass community.
Our winter recital was a positive experience. Students performed songs while often switching instruments and showcasing their talents. They preformed “Ho Hey” by the Lumineers, “21 Guns” by Green Day, “Mr. Blue Sky” by Electric Light Orchestra, “You Should See Me A Crown” by Billie Elish and other songs well. This year, students also performed some of these songs for the students and teachers during a morning.

**Meet Michelle Popper, PsyD**

Michelle Popper has been licensed as a clinical psychologist since 2004, and she has maintained a part-time private practice for much of the past two decades. She says: “I am very passionate about working with kids with learning differences and helping children and families navigate all of the complexities that come with these differences. It is such an honor to be part of the Compass community!

Dr. Popper’s hours are: Tuesday through Friday afternoons, during which she is available to see students for ongoing individual therapy or to provide supportive counseling for issues that arise at school.

Dr. Popper has helped us as a community leading conversations with our students and providing insight into how we can better support our students in the classroom.

Feel free to contact her with questions or feedback about how she may be helpful to your family in particular or the school community in general. The best way to reach her is via email at: mpopper@compasshigh.org.

**Design Thinking Class**

By Louse Fraser

This year, we have added a new course to the academic program called Design Thinking.

Design Thinking is a skills course, focused around the concept of Project Based Learning, and it was created with the aim of encouraging our students to develop the 21st century skills for lifespan learning, including: critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creativity.

The students follow a program that starts with a guided introduction to understanding who they are as learners. This foundation helps them in the next phase, where they work Design Thinking is continued on the next page
as a group on a structured introduction project. Following this, they begin their first Design Sprint, which is partnered work on a chosen topic within given parameters. This year, students created a public service announcement to raise awareness of the UN Global Goals for 2030. Next, students tackled their first short project as independent learners. This project was Compass High School community-based, a specialized film club and a ‘Post It Nice’ activity, In second semester, the second independent Design Sprint has started. Students are using the design cycle of identifying a problem to solve, researching it, asking questions for clarification, navigating the ideas required to solve the problem, revising their work, launching their product and reflecting upon the process as a whole. Later, they will work on their long project, using the skills they have learned throughout the year. 

Bowling Night

Friday Night 1/24/20
@Bel Mateo Bowl

Wednesday’s Photography Class
Taught by Zane Cirne https://edjozane.com

Ms. Cirne is a parent and photographer, who is sharing her expertise with students on Wednesdays 1:30 -2:45.

The course covers aperture, shutter speeds, exposure, photography composition rules, how to hold the camera, how to become aware of different light sources, and how light sources influence the look of photos. Though not strictly required, this course’s success depends on student participation in the form of photo assignments. Whether you photograph with a phone, own a point-and-shoot or a more advanced DSLR, this workshop will give students the skills to create successful images. Students provide their own digital camera (DSLR or phone) with batteries, chargers, and memory cards.

Tuition is $250.00 for all six classes, and the school will provide transportation to the Train Station to help ensure that students make the 3:15 train from Compass.
Dyslexia is defined as an unexpected difficulty in learning to read for children who have all the factors necessary to become naturally good readers, but who still struggle with reading. These students demonstrate intelligence and motivation and are given reasonable reading instruction, but yet these students still struggle. Dyslexia is Neuropsychological in nature, focusing on difficulties in sequential processing and can be mapped when looking at language centers in the left-hemisphere of the brain.

It is important to realize that dyslexia is a different kind of learning and not a deficiency.

Research continues to suggest that dyslexia happens because of the way the brain processes information, particularly linguistic information. Pictures of the brain, taken with modern imaging tools, indicate that dyslexic people read using different parts of the brain than people without dyslexia. These pictures also show that the brains of people with dyslexia do not work as efficiently during reading, which leads to reading difficulties.

A common misconception is that dyslexic people reverse letters and numbers and see words backwards; however, reversals occur as a normal part of development, and are seen in many children until first or second grade. The main problem for people with dyslexia is trouble recognizing phonemes, which are the basic sounds of speech (the "b" sound in "bat" is a phoneme, for example). The 44 phonemes produce thousands of words in the English language. Therefore, it is a struggle to make the connection between the sound and the letter symbol for that sound, and to blend sounds into words.

The confusion with phonemes makes it hard to recognize familiar words or to sound out unknown words or to add new words to ones vocabulary. It can take a good deal of time for a person with dyslexia to sound out a word. It is not surprising that people with dyslexia have trouble spelling. They may also have trouble expressing themselves in writing and even speaking. Dyslexia is a language processing disorder, so it can affect all forms of language, both spoken or written. However, it is not uncommon for dyslexic people to also be very verbal and articulate. This can confuse parents and teachers who wonder why students struggle in school when they seem to have so much to offer.

Dyslexia comes in many forms. Dyslexics have different learning styles just like everyone else, but they also have the difficulty with language processing. Dyslexia is not something that goes away on its own or that a person can outgrow or overcome. I often tell students “once a dyslexic, always a dyslexic”. Fortunately, with proper help, most people with dyslexia learn to read and, with some study skills, can do quite well in traditional learning environments.

Further resources
Overcoming Dyslexia
By Sally Shaywitz
The Dyslexic Advantage
By Brock and Fernette Eide
The Dyslexia Empowerment Plan By Ben Foss
Kelly Corrigan's is the Author of *The Middle Place, Lift, Glitter and Glue* and will be conducting a fund raiser for Compass. Her latest book *Tell Me More* continues to inspire focusing stories and essay about love, life and the joy of both. Her engaging talks and stories have been featured in all types of media.

Corrigan has shared her life and stories on TV and through a pod cast as well. Oprah called her the voice of her generation and her commitment to the support of women issues including motherhood and supporting opportunities for girls makes her topics relevant. Her essay about "women's remarkable capacity to support each other, to laugh together, and to endure" called *Transcending*, sparked a TED talk and lead to many contributions to magazines like Good Housekeeping, Glamour and O, the Magazine for Oprah Winfrey.

**Where and When**

April 22 VIP Experience 6:30 -7:30
General Admissions 7:30 -9:00

The Foster, located at 940 Commercial St. is the permanent collection of the Foster Art & Wilderness Foundation. The foundation was established to preserve, and keep intact, Tony Foster’s watercolor journey paintings as a whole work of art. The Foster also serves as a venue for art, wilderness, educational and community programs and events and is an ideal location for our Corrigan event.

We will also have student art on display at the event. We are sure you will enjoy the location as well as Kelly’s talk.

**Remember this is a fund raiser for the school**

- The VIP Experience runs $500.00 a ticket
- General admissions is $100.00 a ticket

All funds raised go to help Compass High School develop and manage the education program that benefits or students and families.