DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE
21st Century Readiness

The 21st century world our graduates will enter will be vastly different from that I faced out of high school back in the 1970’s. Seventy percent of the jobs our graduates will have don’t even exist today and in their lifetime, and our graduates will change careers five or more times. We live in a dynamic, rapidly changing world. Preparing our students for this world demands a different kind of education beyond just reading, writing, and arithmetic.

From its inception, Compass was designed to prepare students for success in school and for life beyond the school walls. Compass aims to develop what are now being called “21st century skills”—these attributes essential not just for the world of work, but to be a contributing citizen and community member. This list of 21st century skills, as proposed by Tony Wagner of Harvard, poses a challenge to traditional educational practices:

1. Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
2. Collaboration and Leadership
3. Agility and Adaptability
4. Initiative and Entrepreneurialism
5. Effective Oral and Written Communication
6. Accessing and Analyzing Information
7. Curiosity and Imagination

A Compass education purposefully helps students develop each of these skills. There are two essential factors in reaching these goals for every student: 1) students must have many opportunities to learn and practice each skill and 2) the skills need not be addressed in isolation but work best embedded together in varied experiences. Each element of the Compass program serves to incorporate these important skills for success in the 21st century.

Critical thinking is inherent in our “regular” classes in Science, Humanities, Spanish, and Math. Whether debating a more ideal society in Humanities after reading “Hunger Games,” or exploring the impact of climate change in science, or developing presentations on energy for the town of Westminster, each course asks students to think deeply and make connections.

Compass students continually solve problems such as puzzling over Alexandra’s math brain teasers or trying to build an electric generator in Science. Problem solving becomes even more “real world” in Community Service Winter Term when creating a more visible presence for a national educational organization or when your junior class trip to the Dominican Republic gets diverted to Puerto Rico for a day due to flight delays or when the Student Judiciary helps resolve a conflict between two students.

Certainly the soccer and frisbee teams ask for collaboration and leadership, as does creating a 1920’s museum in Humanities class or putting together a school play consisting of five different shorts or making a foreign language film in Spanish class.

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Graduating Class of 2012

“My year at Compass went by so fast—all I see is a blur of activities, teachers, and lessons. I see bright faces illuminated by the harsh stage lights and a sea of hands clapping before them. I see a slinky being held across the floor, ripples passing through it, and the look of understanding dawning on my classmates’ faces as they can finally see what sound waves look like. I see girls with boxy dresses and bobbed hair painting lipstick on each other’s mouths in the bathroom as 1920’s music floats through the door. I see the sprawling lunchtime chaos of the big room, always full of singing and guitar playing and laughter.”

- Julia Fernandez-Turk, Grade 10

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Compass School Journal

The agility and adaptability needed for a rapidly changing world is not typically a part of many students' school experience where they repeat the same schedule every day, and follow adult direction in a highly rule oriented environment. Within Compass' structure, students are put in numerous situations that demand flexibility and responsiveness. On spring trips to NYC or Maine or Prudence Island, or creating a movie for the Film Festival or going to Guatemala for senior Project, experiences beyond the school walls invariably ask students to respond to complex and unpredictable situations.

We live our mission of helping students pursue their dreams by asking each to make choices in their work. Project Week, senior Project, fund-raising for the 11th Grade Global Connections travel, and designing the addition of an art lab for the school ask students to take initiative and figure out how to get things done on their own (with teacher support). The choices in these projects and within class assignments ask students to take ownership for their learning.

Effective oral and written communication should be part of every school. And yes, our students write a lot in Humanities class (and other subjects as well) but also are asked to exercise strong communication skills in presentations to state legislators on the impact of 19th century US history for current policy making or teaching elementary school students lessons from middle school science or using art to advocate for social change or drawing personalized diplomas for their peers' graduation.

Communication in the 21st century involves much more than writing—visitors to school continually comment on how adept Compass students are in communicating in a variety of formats. Accessing and analyzing information demands our students go beyond reading pre-digested information in textbooks. Holding human brains at the Harvard brain lab and reading psychological research in professional journals as part of the science of the mind elective or looking at spanish culture through an art exhibit at Dartmouth or interacting with a Mayan healer show students other ways of gathering information and making sense of the world with their teachers and peers.

Finally, there is one “skill” that is as necessary in the 21st century as the 20th—attention to quality and excellence. In the wide variety of experiences for every student at Compass we strive for quality effort and results. Even something that seems “just for fun” such as Spring Carnival is a chance to focus on doing something well and working with others to do one's best.

In the end, one measure of our success is how our students stand out in the college admissions process. Once again this year, our students were not only accepted at almost every college to which they applied, but were awarded major merit based academic and leadership scholarships that reflect how much colleges value the experiences these student bring. Yes, the Compass educational program looks different and sometimes less "orderly” than other schools, but a great deal of purpose undergirds each element of this vibrant environment.

ALUMNI PROFILE

REES LESTER - CLASS OF 2011

Current Location: Phoenix, AZ

What you are doing now:
I have a fiancée, a 2 year-old daughter named Iris, and 3 jobs that all keep me very busy. First and foremost is working as the Media & Technology Director for an indie horror distribution company called Brain Damage Films. I also do a lot of freelance web development, and as more of a hobby I have a small media company called Blue Elephant Media doing music video projects.

Where you think you are heading (what are your goals, future plans, etc):
My goal at this point is to make enough to finance more video and music projects in my spare time (and actually have some spare time!). In the long run I’d love to own a diversified media company.

Most interesting experience at Compass?
Definitely the road trip that Asha and I went on for our senior projects. Also the filmmaking class was a blast. I still miss it all.

How Compass has helped you in your current life:
To say that Compass was one of the most positive and life changing experiences of my life would be an understatement. It wasn’t just “school” that everyone has to go through and quickly tries to forget. My education over 6 years at Compass helped me build a solid foundation of knowledge and values that I’ll have for the rest of my life.

What you value most about your Compass experience:
That I was encouraged to grow and learn my own way and really flourish as a unique individual. I’m really grateful for the whole experience.

Anything you want to communicate to people in the Compass community who may read this publication:
To current students: The most important thing you can learn is how to learn. Sounds like just another cliché but it’s true. If you can master that skill you’ll set yourself up for real independence, because you’ll know how to seek out what you need and use it properly without needing others’ instruction all the time. Then you pass on your knowledge and teach others.

Continued From Page 1
ANNUAL AWARDS

Volunteer of the Year
Phil Drinker

Friend of Compass Award
Chris Hodsden
For the BFUHS Administration

Vermont Honor Scholar
Jillian Murphy

Governor’s Institute 2012
Atreyu Singleton-Spencer
Sophie Bady-Kaye
Renbourn Chock

Community Leadership Award
Sophie Taylor-Havens

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES 2012

Antioch College
Bard College
Bennington College
Carleton College
Clark University
Colby College
Columbus School of Art
Eckerd College
Furman University
Gettysburg College
Goucher College
Green Mountain College
Hartwick College
Hobart William and Smith
Ithaca College
Johnson State College
Juniata College
Kalamazoo College
Lesley University
Lewis and Clark
Macalester College
McDaniels College
Prescott College
Savannah College of Art & Design
SUNY Purchase
Susquehanna University
University of Asheville/NC
University of Delaware
University of New Hampshire
University of Vermont
Unity College
Ursinus College
Waren Wilson College
Wheaton College
Wheelock College

Images From the School Plays and Film Festival

Piloting the Ship on 8th Grade Spring Trip

Heat Loss Analysis During Winterm Building Design
11 Grade DR Travels
The Junior Class returned to the Dominican Republic to further our partnerships begun on our trip last year. This year’s group had their own unique adventures, from ending up in Puerto Rico on the first night to waterfall jumping in the high water of rainy season to negotiating the hot afternoons of May. As always, this international immersion proved a transformative experience for each student. In the words of Chris Diak, “This trip gave me an overwhelming sense of clarity and most importantly, peace. To all those of you who helped make this trip possible, thank you so much. You changed my life forever.”

Compass Featured in CES Newsletter
The Coalition of Essential Schools (CES), a national organization representing schools dedicated to promoting personalized, equitable, and intellectually challenging schools, featured Compass in its spring newsletter. Compass was recognized for its creative schedule that balances traditional classroom learning with other learning opportunities that might not fit conveniently into 90 or 45 minute periods.

National Recognition for our Students
Every Compass student stands out in their own way. This past year, several have been recognized for national level awards. Isaac Shaw was recognized as a National Merit Scholar, Rio Nelson and Vangeli Atsalis Gogel were chosen for the HOBY National Leadership Conference, and a large group were nominated for the Johns Hopkins Gifted and Talented Summer Program.

Vermont Community Foundation
We have submitted a major grant proposal to VCF to develop a collaborative among schools and non-profits to provide a wide range of positive afternoon activities for teens in the region. Along with BFUHS, BFMS, Kurn Hattin, and Compass, we would open up our Exploratories along with their after-school programming to bring students together and expand opportunities for all.

Cultural Routes Arts Grant
We thank the Vermont Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts for their generous support for our New York City high school spring trip to help our students better appreciate public art and the wonders of the Museum of Modern Art.

Wilson Schreiber Science Award
Wilson Schreiber (’07) has generously offered to become our first alumni sponsor for a dedicated Compass award. Wilson went on from Compass to be Student Engineer of the Year in Vermont and now is employed at Dartmouth Medical School doing high level research related to radiation and human health. He wants to set up an award to support excellence in the sciences at Compass. Details are being worked out, but we think the idea will be to honor the top science student and have the honoree meet with Wilson to determine how to expend a monetary award to support science education at Compass.

Welcome Our New Teacher
With great sadness we say good-bye to Bethany Hobbs, who has done such a wonderful job with the middle school and consistently brought such energy and clarity and care to her work. She will be greatly missed as she goes on to new professional opportunities. We are thrilled to welcome Gabe Allen-Fahlander who will be stepping into Bethany’s very stylish shoes. Gabe comes to us from teaching at Sharon Academy and brings a wide-ranging background in Political Science and Economics at Colgate University, and as a college baseball player, brewmaster for Harpoon Brewery, and manager of City Sports in Boston.

NoteWORTHY NEWS

“The school has taught me to think for myself, learn independently, and respect everyone. I’m not a perfect person, but Compass has helped me develop into a lady that I am proud to be.”

-Kailey Rinder, Grade 12
SENIOR PROJECTS

Starcie Grout        Hispanic Cultural Immersion and Translation
Jonah Nigro          Glass Blowing Apprenticeship
Jill Murphy          The Role of Art in Guatemalan Culture
Shannon Dougherty    Animal Care Internship
Kailey Rinder        Fabric and Clothing Design
Sophie Taylor-Havens Exploring Cultural Diversity in Guatemala
Phil Orgorzalek      Organic Farming Internship
Patrick Keeley       Budo and the Study of Traditional Weaponry
Jake Guarino         Independent Travel in Guatemala
Rachel Durante       Theater Arts: Directing, Acting, and Tech
Olivia McNeely       Romani Dance
Manya Gordon         National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS)
                     Semester in the Rockies
Liz Hauty            Full Year Independent Living and College Studies

Julia Taylor in Senior Seminar

At the Harvard Brain Lab for Science of the Mind
DONOR LIST

The following have contributed to our Annual Giving and Scholarship Program or provided grants in the past year. Thanks to all who help Compass live its mission to help every student have access to a school where he or she can find success.

Various Students 2011
Reginald & Emily Abare
Peg Alden
Phyllis Anderson
Cher Anderson
Karen Augusta & Bob Ross
Katina Atsulis
Shirley & Aram Bedros
Bellows Falls Lodge 527
Joyce & Larry Beranek
Diana Bingham
Roxane Blake
Lisa Bloch
Ron Bos-Lun
Elizabeth Bourne
Adèle Bozza
Brentboro Savings & Loan
Teri & Robert Brooks
Elizabeth Catlin
Center for Health & Learning
Ray Chamberland
Margaret Clark
Gary Clay
Judith & Tony Coven
Maera Cramer
Alan Dann
Linda & Tom Diak
Billy Donovan
Philip & Beth Ann Drinker
Ellyn & Michael Durante
Nancy Edwards
Bliss & Joan Jaffe - Eldridge
Tony & Kathy Elliott
Tom Ewing
Fiesta Night Auction Item Donors
Amir Flesher
Gail Fletcher
Bo Foard & Melany Kahn
Arthur & Diane Faleihan
Peter Galbraith
Mary Geannelis
Nikki Geannelis
Kathleen Gelineau
Phoebe Gooding
Herbet & Shirley Gordon
Rick & Elaine Gordon
Kim Grall
Susan Guarino
Paul Harlow
Linda Helmerdinger
Patricia Higgins
David Hinckley
Bethany Hobbs
Alan Hodson
Louise Hodson
Jeanette Holton
Chi Chi Chiang Hom
Ari & Liz Jackson
Stanley & Melinda Jaffe
Betsy Jaffe
Flynn Johnson & Jill Neitlich
Karyn Kaminski
Ellen Kaye
Darlene & Brian Kelly
Wendy Kerlin
Constance Kincaid-Brown
Knitting Needle Tickets-- 9,700!
Nancy & Ted Kovaleff
Anna Kristensen
Julian Leon
Maria Lamberto
Ellen Lawrence
Reese Lester
Tom Lowell
Deborah Luksin
Lauren MacArthur
Jan McGonagle
Kya Michaud
Paul Millman
Anne Morton
Hillary Newton
NGM Charitable Foundation
Krista Orceo
Ryan Ostebo & Mary Hepburn
Matthew Peake & Leslie Goldman
Jocelyn Peknik
People's Linen Service
Timothy Powers
Linda & David Quimby
Bettina Ramey
Rockingham Arts & Museum
Project
Eric Rhomberg
Lisa Ricci
Craig & Linda Rinder
Victoria Roberts
Bob Ross
Bob & Rachel Rottenberg
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Michelle Villeneuve
Crystal Washburn & Michael Cramer
Linda Whitney
Russell Williams
Laurie & Michael Wilson
Janice Wojcik
Alexandra Zuser
Westminster Auto Service
Wolf Kahn & Emily Mason Foundation
Windham Northeast Supervisory Union
VINS

Winterm Mapmaking Group
BUDGET OVERVIEW

Compass provides a rich program on a frugal budget. It's a tribute to all who make so much wonderful learning happen with limited funds.

Income ($950,000)

- Tuition
- Special Education
- Fundraising
- Financial Aid

Expenses ($950,000)

- Teacher Salary and Benefit
- Occupancy Costs
- Administration
- Program
- Special Education

Small learning environment allows for strong relationships

Figure Drawing in Art Intensive

High School Chemistry
Did you know the Compass building was originally an Elk’s Lodge? This repurposed space has worked well for 13 years, and now it is time for further steps forward! We are embarking on major campus-wide improvements and are thrilled about the progress already made. The primary objectives of these projects are:

1. Construction of a dedicated arts space;
2. Upgrades of the outside landscaping;
3. Reduce energy costs with roof repairs and accompanying venting system; and
4. Involving our students actively in the planning and design process.

Compass has a strong record of integrating arts throughout the school program. From mask-making in the middle school’s “Who Am I?” unit to the Art for Social Change 9th-10th grade course to our Science of the Mind and Filmmaking cross-disciplinary electives for 11th-12th grade, the arts can be part of any class.

Our proposed project will result in six major benefits:

1. Space for students to create art, stretch their creativity, and use the arts as a communication tool for understanding and expression;
2. Construction of a dedicated, versatile space for arts that facilitates student learning by having accessible, well organized materials and attractive, open space to create and display artwork;
3. Repair of the roof and the inadequate venting system that will lower energy costs, improve outside appearances, reduce maintenance costs, and provide more comfortable climate for students;
4. Improvements in outdoor appearances of landscaping and outdoor spaces, including an outdoor classroom and “comfort” spaces that lead students to be outside interacting with each other and with nature;
5. Inclusion of Compass students to learn about architectural design, landscape design, permitting processes, and sustainable building and energy systems; and
6. Partnering with Keene State University to involve their architecture students in a real world project.

Compass has initiated a campaign to raise money for the arts lab addition, slated to be built summer, 2013. We have been awarded a $60,000 grant from the Clowes Foundation and a matching grant from Thompson Trust challenges us to raise another $15,000 this summer. That means every dollar raised this summer (if we get to $15,000), is worth two!

You can help. Please consider making a contribution, and asking a friend or family member to join this worthy effort. It all makes a difference. It’s a great time to be generous and to help move Compass to the next level.

- Jillian Murphy, Grade 12