



New and returning Preuss students are greeted by friendly faces.

## Students Receive a Warm Welcome on the First Day of Class

Smiling faces and warm welcomes greeted more than 800 middle and high school students returning to start a new academic year at The Preuss School UCSD on Monday, Aug. 20. For the second year in a row, Preuss hosted a First Day of Classes Welcome event with many Preuss faculty, staff, board members, friends and UC San Diego officials to help kick off the school year. Attendees joined Principal Scott Barton and Preuss student leaders to hear about recent achievements and future plans before meeting the buses to welcome new and returning students to campus.

Thank you to everyone who joined us to help welcome our students.

## PREUSS EARNS ACCOLADES

### School Named Nation's Top Transformative High School and Top Charter School in California

The Preuss School UCSD recently earned two outstanding rankings to add to its growing list of accolades. In May, *Newsweek* once again named The Preuss School the top transformative school in the country, citing the school's ability to lead the way in getting low-income and first-generation students ready for college and beyond. The ranking was included in *Newsweek's* "America's Best High Schools," which also listed Preuss at the top of all San Diego County high schools and 30th overall in the nation.

The Preuss School was also named the top charter school in California in a new report by the University of Southern California (USC). Developed to strengthen accountability among California's charter schools, the sixth annual USC School Performance Dashboard draws on data from 2003 to 2011 to rate charter schools across multiple measures of financial health and academic performance, including state test scores and classroom spending.

"We are proud to receive this recognition," said Preuss Principal Scott Barton. "It is a testament to what a rigorous curriculum, hard work, high expectations and continuous encouragement and support services can accomplish."

For recent graduate Mustafa Malik, The Preuss School was indeed a transformative experience. "When I came to Preuss, I was the shy, overweight, invisible kid," Malik said. "But I was encouraged and supported to speak in public, to take on leadership roles and become fit through basketball. The school changed my life. I learned to have a presence among my peers." Malik will attend Yale University in the fall.

The Preuss School has been consistently ranked as one of America's best high schools by *Newsweek*, *The Washington Post* and *U.S. News & World Report*, among others. With more than 800 students in grades 6 through 12, The Preuss School has an exemplary Academic Performance Index Score (API) of 899, one of the highest in the county.



Preuss students benefit from a longer school year: 198 days versus the typical 175-day school year.



## BULLETIN BOARD

- Three lucky Preuss students became “astronauts in training” this summer. Estela Azucena, Tyler Leptich and Natalie Ruybal attended **Space Camp at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center** in Huntsville, Alabama, courtesy of scholarships presented by law firm Fish & Richardson. Each student also received \$250 in spending money and a space suit.
- The Preuss School was the first school to benefit from **Geared Up**, a program started by UC San Diego student-athlete Jacqueline Davis, which donates unused athletic gear to public schools. Preuss received thousands of dollars of equipment.
- Preuss welcomes **Karin Marsolais**, our new chief administrative officer. In her new position, she will provide management and oversight of all administrative activities related to the development and implementation of the mission and instructional goals of The Preuss School.
- Students, teachers, staff, parents and friends of Preuss turned out in force recently for the **ART: SUSTAIN IT! Exhibit** at Space 4 Art in downtown San Diego. The exhibit was the culmination of a yearlong art and sustainability project created by artist Barbara Gothard and funded as part of the Kenneth A. Picerno Foundation’s Artist Outreach Project. Gothard developed the project with Barak Smith, chair of the fine arts department at Preuss.

Cesar Lozano and Selene Garcia proudly display their artistic creations during the ART: SUSTAIN IT! Exhibit.



## Preuss Seniors Celebrate Achievements

After countless hours of research, longer-than-average school days and lengthy commutes, 90 Preuss seniors celebrated the culmination of seven years of hard work during The Preuss School UCSD commencement ceremony on June 29.

The Class of 2012 had much to be proud of: 95 percent of the class had been accepted to a four-year college or university. This fall, a number of students will attend private colleges, including University of Pennsylvania; Dartmouth, Yale, Columbia, and Northwestern Universities; Amherst College and Harvey Mudd College. Fifty-seven students will attend California State University or University of California schools, including seven students who will attend UC San Diego.

This year’s graduating class has also garnered more than \$1.7 million in scholarships. Three members of the class were recipients of the prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarship, which provides all educational expenses through undergraduate and graduate school to 1,000 students nationally each year. Preuss has been home to 24 Gates Scholars over the last six years.

“We are all extremely proud of our students and are excited to see what their futures hold in store,” said Scott Barton, Preuss principal.



Twins Amara (left) and Amaris Tang will both attend UC San Diego this fall.

## Help Preuss Earn Books and Supplies

The Preuss School can receive up to \$10,000 in Target gift cards for books or any supplies we need. All you need to do is vote for Preuss online each week until September 8. For every 25 votes received, Target will send Preuss a \$25 gift card.

Visit [Facebook.com/Target](https://www.facebook.com/Target) or <https://givewith.target.com/schools/87317>.

**Stay Connected!** If you would like to receive email communications, including important announcements, videos and more from The Preuss School, please send your email address to [adittmar@ucsd.edu](mailto:adittmar@ucsd.edu).

## PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Welcome to the new school year at The Preuss School UCSD! We are starting on a high note. Last spring we were named the No. 1 transformative high school in the nation by *Newsweek* magazine for the second



year in a row. And just as we were about to send our Class of 2012 off to college, we learned that the University of Southern California's prestigious Center for Educational

Governance named us the top charter school in California! These latest accolades are continuing confirmation that what happens at The Preuss School is not only making a difference for our students, but is getting noticed by influential organizations with national and international reach.

As I've often said, the success of The Preuss School is based on an education model of

best practices and the key element of that model is our longer school year. It's what allows us to offer our advisory prep classes, weekly teacher collaboration and professional development, and a variety of electives, including robotics, arts and sports, that round out our rigorous single-track college preparatory curriculum.

The push for mandating more learning time in public schools is gaining traction, thanks to efforts spearheaded by organizations such as the National Center for Time and Learning. About a year ago, I had the pleasure of presenting The Preuss School at their convention in Boston. Recently, I have added my name, and that of The Preuss School, to the list of administrators and schools that "walk the talk" of expanded learning time. We are the bellwether of this movement in California.

Studies have confirmed over and over that there is no better predictor of a student's success in college and beyond than extra time

spent in elementary and secondary school engaging in productive, directed educational activities. With the unprecedented state cut-backs in school days and funding, especially in California, along with increasingly fewer community resources for youth activities, The Preuss School fills a deepening need for our low-income students.

The Preuss School is having a far-ranging impact. Preuss graduates are consistently accepted to four-year colleges and universities at a rate of nearly 95 percent, and almost 100 percent are going on to some form of higher education. Please continue to share the story of the transformative work of The Preuss School. Thank you for your confidence and support.

Best regards,

Scott Barton  
Principal

## SPOTLIGHT

### Daryl Rysdyk *Preuss Network Administrator*

Daryl Rysdyk was a teenager when his family got their first computer; it was up to him to figure out how to use it and fix the occasional bugs. Soon, friends were coming to him with computer questions and calling him the "computer expert." Now, as the new network administrator at The Preuss School UCSD, Rysdyk is taking care of all of the computer related systems for faculty, staff and students.

"It can be challenging to work on several different projects at once and make sure that everything gets done," he said. "But it's very rewarding to know that when I come into work, I'm helping to educate all of the kids here. It really motivates me to know that I'm playing a role in the success of these students."

Rysdyk knows what it means to work hard in school. A graduate of San Diego State

University, he worked full time at UC San Diego while pursuing his college degree. "It was tough, but I made it through," he



Daryl Rysdyk in his office at The Preuss School

recalls. He more than made it through—Rysdyk was the honors graduate of his department.

At Preuss, Rysdyk already has several projects he is working on to improve the school's technology. He recently added a new server to the network and switched the student information database—a crucial tool for the school—to a different platform, making the database faster and easier to use.

"The staff and faculty have been so welcoming and informative—they've helped me as much as I have helped them," Rysdyk said of transitioning to his new position. "And who knows, maybe I'll even inspire some students to figure out the next generation of technology."

## FOCUS ON Partnership with Learning Ally

The curriculum at The Preuss School UCSD is supposed to be challenging. But for students with disabilities, accessing these rigorous courses can be a challenge of its own. That's why The Preuss School is building a partnership with Learning Ally, which offers audiobooks and an audio app for Apple devices.

Now, students who risk falling behind because they can't read quickly enough to complete the homework, or are visually impaired and unable to read textbooks with small print, will have access to

assistive technology to help them realize their full academic potential.

"One of the greatest hopes I have as we move forward with Learning Ally is that it will help my students become more familiar with the resources and technology that are available," said Krista Bartlett, learning specialist at Preuss. "By integrating Learning Ally into our curriculum early on, we're helping our students to become empowered independent learners who will have a seamless transition into their successful futures."



A partnership with Learning Ally will help students realize their full academic potential.

*Preussline* is published by **The Preuss School UCSD**  
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Edited by Laura Margoni, University Communications and Public Affairs

Designed and produced by UC San Diego Creative Services and Publications  
[www.publications.ucsd.edu](http://www.publications.ucsd.edu)

1213-032



  
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