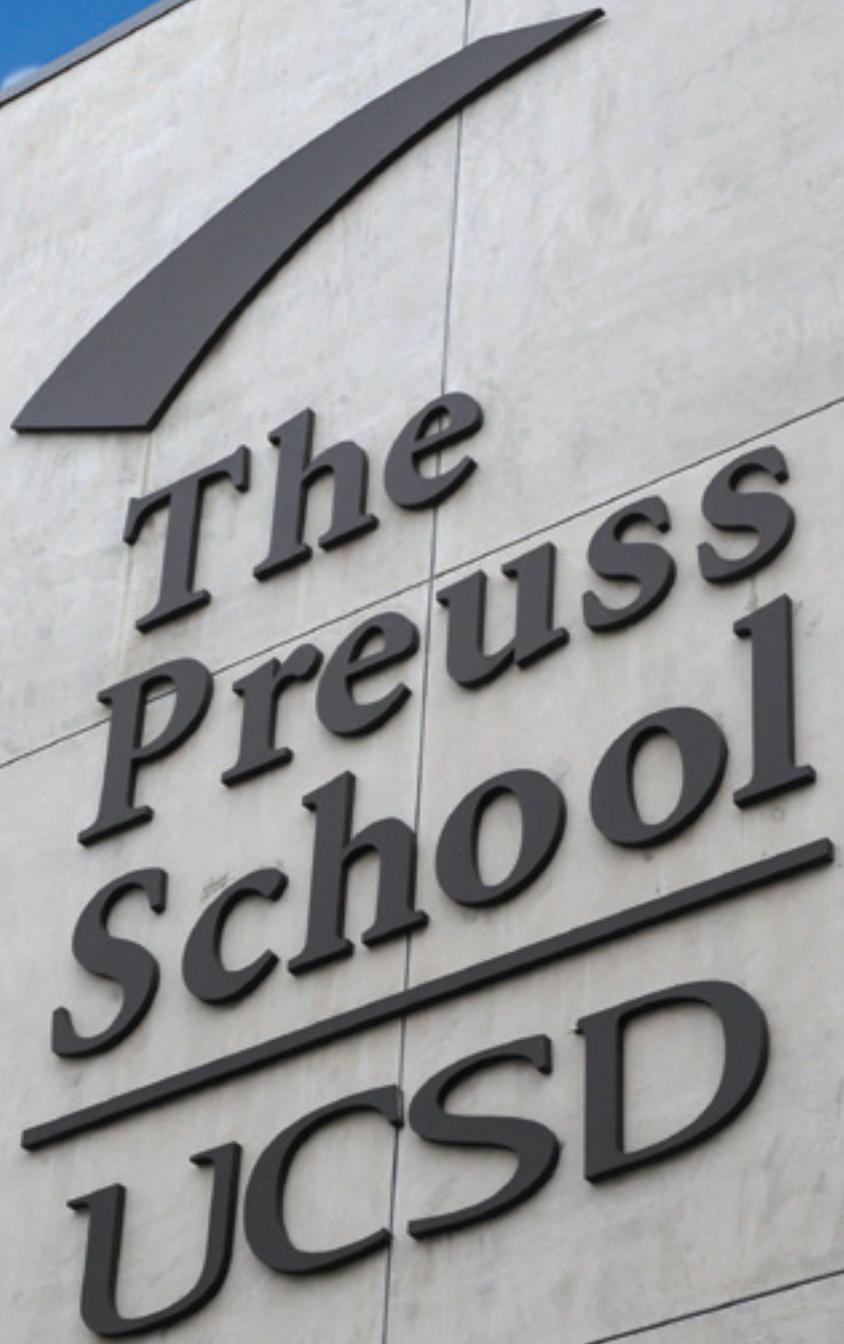


From the day students first step onto The Preuss School campus,  
their future—and the future of their families—changes.

For the first time in their lives,  
anything is possible.

The logo for The Preuss School UCSD is mounted on a light-colored stone or concrete building facade. It features a dark, curved, swoosh-like graphic above the text. The text is arranged in three lines: "The", "Preuss", and "School", followed by a horizontal line and "UCSD". The text is in a bold, serif font.

The  
Preuss  
School  
UCSD

A 2010 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

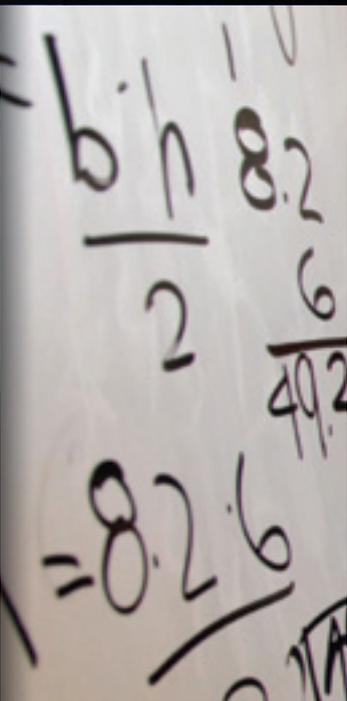


# The Preuss Promise

Equal Access to a Quality Education



*The Preuss School is more than just about preparing economically disadvantaged students for higher education. It is also about providing the skills necessary for them to emerge as empowered participants in society, capable of transforming their own communities from poverty to self-sufficiency.*



The Preuss School UCSD demonstrates the power of a functioning educational system, a system that is built around faculty, administration and community members who offer constant encouragement, belief in potential and unfailing support. Such a system can transform a student from one who has all but given up to one whose passion to learn is ignited and whose future is reclaimed. We have the power as teachers, administrators, parents and community members to make that difference in a child's life. We must effectively model what we are asking our students to do through the efforts we exert, the funding needs we support, the academic rigor we instill and the standards we fulfill.





# For Our Students

The Preuss School, a public charter school for grades 6-12, located on the campus of the University of California, San Diego, provides an intensive college preparatory education for low-income students who represent the first generation in their families to attend a four-year college or university. Through the application of tutor-assisted teaching, a single-track college-preparatory curriculum, small classes and a number of student-support systems, The Preuss School fosters a culture of high academic performance that encourages critical thinking and risk-taking. Students are bused from across San Diego County and from over 40 zip codes.

Opened in 1999, The Preuss School has served as a model for other university-based charter schools to develop high academic achievement among low-income populations by demonstrating parental and family involvement and by implementing new and inventive teaching methods. Today, The Preuss School is unquestionably one of the nation's best secondary schools, as determined by the U.S. Department of Education, the California Department of Education, the Center for Education Reform, *U.S. News & World Report* and *Newsweek*, among others. Each year since its inception, 90-95 percent of Preuss graduates have been accepted to a four-year college or university.





# From Our Faculty & Staff

We live in a society that is founded on the ideal of equal opportunity for all. As educators, we have an obligation to our nation's students. The faculty and administration at The Preuss School teach students to embrace lifelong intellectual curiosity and dedication to continued learning. They also strive to cultivate in their students qualities of character, healthy lifestyles, good judgment and ethical behavior. Above all, The Preuss School provides an environment in which students are continually encouraged and empowered to develop greater confidence through self-sufficiency and a sense of pride in their academic accomplishments.

*I am a teacher because of students like Alex, a member of my advisory class from 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. During his sophomore year, his parents were forced to move into a homeless shelter. Alex attended my after-school tutorial program and I got to know him better as I helped him with homework and occasionally drove him back to the shelter. At the end of his senior year, Alex handed me a note that said: "I have appreciated all you have done for me. You helped me survive my classes, hundreds of assignments, and many stressful days. You are always there encouraging me to succeed and do better. You lift me up when I am down. You are my guardian angel." Alex is now at Whitman College on a full scholarship.*

*– Kelly Kovacic, Social Studies Department Chair and 2010 California Teacher of the Year*



***A story of student leadership:*** **Katrina** was a remarkable leader in Preuss' award-winning robotics program, especially in the technical aspects of the process, such as the programming and facilitating of the whole group's efforts. She received national recognition for presenting at the California Nobel Laureate Dinner and was a delegate at the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Conference, the National Youth Leadership Conference in Medicine, the National Youth Service America Conference and also won the prestigious Harvard Book Prize. Katrina was named her class valedictorian and is now attending Harvard University.



# With Our Community

The Preuss School fosters a unique atmosphere with a shared sense of community. We call on families, the community at large and organizations to share responsibility for encouraging our students' development as both scholars and citizens. Volunteer tutors and mentors play a significant role in our students' success, as do all parents who give generously of their time and only want the best for their children.

*My first introduction to Preuss was reading in the newspaper that it was going to be built. My husband, Chris, and I are both first-generation graduates of UCLA. We felt that our college experiences were formative, and we were inspired to send a check to UC San Diego to contribute to The Preuss School. We felt connected from the moment we attended the groundbreaking.*

*I began mentoring a student named Jackie from the first graduating class, and we have forged a lasting relationship that has enriched both of our lives. When Jackie's graduation approached, Chris and I wanted to give her and a few other students scholarships from our fledgling family foundation. After interviewing so many wonderful Preuss students, we awarded 21 four-year scholarships that first year. Since that time we have awarded 112 scholarships, involved our children in the process of interviews and selection and feel that Preuss is family.*

*I joined the Preuss Board of Directors six years ago. Being part of the governance of the school has been challenging and enlightening, but it is so rewarding to see how much work goes into creating a miracle.*

*– Patricia Weil, The Preuss School Board of Directors*



**A story of student determination:** "It is so powerful to recognize what my parents had to endure just so we could have a better life." **Desu's** father was a soldier in the Eritrean army. After fighting for five years to secure his country's independence from Ethiopia, he came home to such poverty and squalor that he walked the 400 miles from their home to Sudan to secure visas for the family to immigrate to the United States. "My purpose is to work hard, make my parents proud, and to give back to my community. The leadership roles I have taken on at The Preuss School have made me a better person." Desu now attends Santa Clara University.



# Your Support Fulfills the Promise

**A story of student perseverance:** Born in San Diego, **Marco** spent his first four years in Tijuana before moving back to San Ysidro with his mother and brother. His mother did not finish elementary school so when his middle-school teacher handed him an application to The Preuss School, he embraced the educational opportunity. Every day, Marco embarked on a 90-minute commute to school. He carpooled from San Ysidro to National City, where a school bus took him to Preuss. His mother was working nights at the time. She would come back home from her job to drive him to the bus stop, without getting any sleep. After graduation from Preuss in 2004, Marco attended UC San Diego and represented about 27,000 UCSD students when he was elected president of the Associated Students. "Education is very important to me," he says, "not only to help me to achieve my goals but also to be able to go back to my community and make a difference." He recognizes The Preuss School and UCSD for nudging him in a new direction. "I was given the opportunity to explore my interests and discover what I was truly passionate about." He especially credits his experience at Preuss in his decision to strive even higher and pursue doctorate studies. Marco is now attending UCLA's graduate School of Education & Information Studies and pursuing a PhD in education from the Urban Schooling program.



You have the power to help Preuss students succeed against all odds. Federal and state funds cover only the most basic expenses, such as teacher and administrative salaries, books and instructional supplies—the nuts and bolts of a traditional school. But Preuss is much more than a traditional school, and additional funding is needed to provide bus transportation and the extra days of school each year. You can help provide equal access to a quality education and close the achievement gap. A gift of any size brings a Preuss student closer to college.

## The Wheels on the Bus

With 95 percent of our students residing south of Interstate 8, school bus transportation is a critical component of success. Transportation creates stability in attendance, and thus a consistent environment for teaching and learning. Preuss must raise all the funds necessary to provide daily transportation and busing for the Saturday Enrichment Academy and summer school. The results are worth it: The average daily attendance rate at Preuss is 98 percent.

## The Bonus Year

As other districts save costs by cutting days from the school calendar, The Preuss School remains dedicated to longer days and a longer school year. As a result, after completing middle and high school, Preuss students have accumulated almost an entire extra academic year. Because the state only funds a 175-day school year, your financial gifts enable Preuss to provide the extra 23 days each year that are vital to our students' success.

***FPO BUSINESS  
CARD SLOTS***



# The Preuss School at a Glance

## Preuss History & Mission

- The Preuss School UCSD was designed as an intensive college preparatory educational environment for low-income students who would represent the first generation in their families to graduate from a four-year college or university.
- Through the application of tutor-assisted teaching, a single track college preparatory curriculum, small classes and extensive use of “scaffolds” (student supports), The Preuss School UCSD mission is to create a highly enriched middle and senior high school instructional environment. The Preuss School will prepare the graduates to distinguish themselves academically, and thus be competitive for admission to the University of California and other selective institutions of higher learning.
- Chartered by the San Diego Unified School District and governed by the University of California, San Diego, The Preuss School opened in 1999 with 150 students initially in grades 6 through 8.
- The Preuss School was named in recognition of Peter and Peggy Preuss and their son Peter, who helped establish a public charter school on campus with a \$5 million gift to UC San Diego.
- The Class of 2004 was the first Preuss School graduating class.

## Support Systems & Enrichment

- Students and their parents are guided and supported by the same advisory teacher in the same class from grades 6 through 12.
- Each quarter UC San Diego college students tutor in classrooms.
- The Preuss School mentorship program pairs Preuss students with caring volunteer mentors and tutors.
- Music and the arts augment a demanding college preparatory curriculum.
- Varsity sports programs, extracurricular activities, clubs and community service projects emphasize teamwork and leadership.
- 98 percent of parents commit to a minimum 15 hours of school service annually.

## Preuss Advantage

- Over 800 students total in grades 6 through 12.
- An average class size of 30 students in all grades.
- A 198 day school year (versus the traditional 180 days).
- A seven hour school day (versus the traditional six and a half hours).
- Preuss logs 74,669 instructional minutes per year (compared to the state requirement of 64,800).
- 75 percent of Preuss teachers have earned a master’s degree in their field.

## Entrance Requirements

All Preuss students are selected by lottery. To be placed in the lottery, students must complete an application process and meet the following three criteria:

1. Low-income family qualifying for the Federal Free and Reduced-Lunch Program.
2. Family in which parents or guardians have not graduated from college.
3. Demonstrate motivation and desire to attend college.



The  
Preuss  
School  
UCSD

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 **UC San Diego**  
*Local Impact, National Influence, Global Reach*



Photos by Carol Sonstein