# Curriculum and Assessment Department News

It goes without saying, what a 2020 year we had. While we are still waiting for direction from the California Department of Education in regards to how exactly state assessments will be administered, there are a few things we can share.

CAASPP Testing will take place this year with two ***possible*** options for our students. CDE (California Department of Education) is currently developing the process for students to be able to test remotely using a computer device. We will also have physical locations available for testing. Following are our two ***possible*** options for testing this year (please note, the state is developing guidelines and this information is subject change based on state guidelines and local health requirements). Please remember this assessment is not only a vital tool for making instructional decisions about your student's education, but it is imperative for the success of our schools.  Also, as a reminder, **all** students in grades 3-8 and 11-12 will be **required** to complete the school mandatory assessment in one of the below ways. ***The school mandatory assessment, however, is waived if students complete the state CAASPP assessment.   We need everyone to test so we can get our percentage required by the state.***

1. **In Person CAASPP Testing:** Students will test at one of our Resource Centers or regional Test Sites in very small groups with their siblings or CWCS friends whom they have already been in contact with (and are comfortable with), or in small groups of ten students or less.  The classrooms will be sanitized according to CDC (Center for Disease Control) guidelines, masks will be worn by students and staff, gloves will be available, and hand washing stations will be provided and monitored. Students will be required to have a CWCS [Parent/Guardian Assumption of Risk](#) waiver on file prior to entering the building. Additionally, all students and staff will have their temperature checked upon arrival along with being asked the CWCS Check-in Survey Questions as designated in the [Protocol for Visiting School Facilities During COVID-19 Pandemic](#). CDC guidelines will be followed to help prevent transmission/infection of COVID-19.
2. **Remote Testing:** Students will test in their home remotely, using school-owned computers that have had the necessary technology updates for the CAASPP portal to be available.  ES test proctors will stay online with the student during the whole test, observing via a live camera feed. Students can communicate with the ES as needed and within test protocol. Students will need a quiet, uninterrupted place to test in the home. No persons can be in camera view range during the duration of the test.

The CDE has confirmed that the Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) portion of the English Language Arts and Math CAASPP have been modified to about half the usual time estimates for completion. It is estimated that students will take approximately 45-60 minutes to complete the CAT in English Language Arts, with an additional Performance Task, and 45-60 minutes to complete the CAT in Math, with an additional Performance Task.

**How to Prepare Your Child for the CAASPP:**
We highly recommend and ask that all students in grades 3-8 and grade 11 to complete the Smarter Balanced Practice and Training Tests at home with their parents. This will help them to be better prepared for the test so they can do their very best for themselves and for the school. Additionally, all 12th graders must complete the California Science Test (CST) practice assessment. Use of the Smarter Balanced practice and training tests for English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics will help familiarize students and their families with the testing interface, the format and type of questions, and the available accessibility resources. The practice tests may also form the foundation of a good "family conversation" and may help you create instructional materials to use at home with your students. Students who complete the practice test and know what to expect have less anxiety and feel more confident on test day, helping them perform better overall.

Quick Reference Guides are available online for Training and Practice Tests.
Starting a Practice Test Video

To learn more about how to start a training or practice test, and to view scoring guides, visit the **Test Administrator and Test Examiner Resources for the Online Practice and Training Tests** webpage.

The Practice Tests provide students with grade-specific testing experiences with content.

The Training Tests provide students with the opportunity to become familiar with the testing tools.

|  | **Practice Tests** | **Training Tests** |
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| **Purpose** | Provide students with a grade-specific testing experience similar in structure and format to the summative assessments. | Provide students with an opportunity to quickly become familiar with the software and interface features. There are no performance tasks. |
| **Grade Levels** | One test for each of grades 3 through 8 and grade 11 | One test for each of three grade bands: 3-5, 6-8 and high school |
| **Items** | Approximately 30 items each in ELA and Math per grade level, as well as one performance task for each subject per grade level. | Approximately 15 items per test (6 in ELA and 8–9 in math); no performance tasks are included. |
| **Results** | Results are not scored, but answer keys and scoring rubrics are available. | Results are not scored; no scoring rubrics or answer keys are available. |
| **Universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations are available on all practice and training tests.** | | |

Look for additional information about state testing via our Listserve as more becomes available.

**Have you signed your student up for the "Grasp the CAASPP" workshops yet?**
We are excited to continue our Second Annual "Grasp the CAASPP" workshops. We want to encourage all of our 3-8th and 11th grade students to actively participate. Students can win prizes, and most importantly, can increase their state assessment scores, all while having fun!

Students attend live "gaming" sessions online via Moodle where they will participate in games to practice their grade level skills. Games include Kahoot!, Trivia, Jeopardy and more.  Students will have fun practicing for the state assessment and earn raffle tickets to try to earn prizes.

For more information and to sign up, visit our Grasp the CAASPP website.
Click on the Live Session Schedule Tab on the website to find your grade level session dates, topics and links to join the Live Sessions.  Students automatically earn "virtual tickets" when they join live sessions by completing an attendance form (provided by the instructor-facilitator) at the end of the session.

**<u>Spotlight on Curriculum</u>**
Looking for a way to make math meaningful? Check out this cool website. Yummy Math takes real life current events and challenges students in grades 3-12 with problem solving that is engaging and meaningful. Best of all, much of the content is free (and did we mention it's yummy?)!

As always, if you have any questions regarding curriculum, please feel free to contact me via phone or e-mail at any time. You can reach me, Shoni Johnson, Curriculum and Assessment Director, at sjohnson@cwcharter.org or call me at 800-808-9895 x252.

# English Learner Department

Happy New Year!
Parents, I want to start the New Year off by letting you know that we need you!

Our school <u>needs</u> our parents to come and participate in our ELAC meetings.  I know that you must be wondering, what is ELAC?  ELAC stands for English Learner Advisory Committee.  Every school with 21 or more English Learners <u>must</u> have an ELAC.

The ELAC is composed of parents from the school.  (Even parents of our English Only students are welcome!)  These parents come together to help advise the school on programs and services for English Learners.  I know that some of you may not feel very comfortable giving advice to help guide the school, but you know your children best!  You know what works and what doesn't for your families, and we can serve you best when we know your thoughts and needs.

Connecting Waters Charter Schools are parent driven schools, and as such, we need your voices to help guide us!

Our next ELAC is February 10 at 1:30 p.m. via Google Meet.  For more information, check out the school's website (under the Parent Tab).  Please come out and support

your school and your children!

## Social Studies Department

February is full of fun holidays and important recognitions. Here are a few links you can access for ideas and activities:

PBS Learning Media: Black History Month
A Valentine Week Your Kids will LOVE!- Scholastic, Grades K-2
PBS Learning Media: Valentine's Day Grades 2-6
PBS Learning Media: Presidents Day Grades 2-6

## Rosetta Stone News

Hi All,
The second semester Rosetta Stone OMLs are now open in SIS.  Put your student into the OML and then complete the survey linked at ES Support: OMLs: Rosetta Stone. You will receive an activation email when requested licenses are activated.

Reminders:
**Rosetta Stone**: All CW schools use the same site.

**Drops or Language Change Requests:** If your student drops from CWCS or needs to change a language, email ES Shelly Brooks sbrooks@cwcharter.org.  Please download needed samples before contacting Shelly as changing a language or deleting a student also deletes all progress from the site. (See "Creating Reports" information on the ES Support site).

**ES User Name:** email before the @ symbol
**Password:**  rosettaes
**ES EXAMPLE:** ES = Amanda Smith; email = asmith@cwcharter.org
User Name = asmith
Password= rosettaes

**Languages/Levels available**:
Rosetta Stone has from 1-5 levels for each language offered, corresponding to years in High School.  They are divided into 4 units each, so level 1 consists of units 1-4, level 2 is units 5-8, and so on.  Your student will choose the level by starting on the correct unit.

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| Arabic (3) | Hebrew (3) | Polish (3) |
| Chinese (Mandarin) (5) | Hindi (3) | Portuguese (Brazil) (3) |
| Dutch (3) | Indonesian (1) | Russian (5) |
| English (American or British) (5) | Irish (3) | Spanish (Latin American or Spain) (5) |
| | Italian (5) | |
| Filipino (Tagalog) (3) | Japanese (3) | Swedish (3) |
| French (5) | Korean (3) | Turkish (3) |
| German (5) | Latin (3) | Vietnamese (3 |
| Greek (3) | Persian (Farsi) (3) | |

We have online access to the Rosetta Stone Foundations Flash Free languages platform.

Rosetta Stone workbook downloads for selected languages, directions for downloading usage reports, a link to active enrollees with user names, and a wealth of other information are available on the ES Support website at OML: Rosetta Stone

**Technical Support**
Rosetta Stone has a dedicated support line for **Teachers only**.  This number is 877-223-9848 **Option 3, then 2**.

**Parents and students** can get technical support from the general support line at 877-223-9848 **Option 2, then 2** or use the tab on the sign-in page of Rosetta Stone to live-chat or email with technical support.

For activation questions and to change languages only, contact ES Shelly Brooks at sbrooks@cwcharter.org. She does not provide technical support.