

Academic Department News

Welcome back to school! I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and is looking forward to the start of a new school year. We are excited to introduce Canvas, a new LMS (Learning Management System), that will be replacing our Moodle platform. Our instructors have been busily working over the summer to learn the new system and develop their classes. Canvas offers an 'observer' account making it convenient for parents to monitor their student progress and grades.

Due to COVID19 restrictions, our resource centers will be holding their classes online for at least the first quarter. The situation will be reevaluated at that time as to whether it is safe to return to in-person classes. If you intend for your student to take classes at the resource center, please be sure to sign up now for the online class.

We have expanded our departments to offer new classes this year. Our math department is expanding its lower and upper levels, with Math 3 being added and a-g Trig/Pre-Calc returning. Our English department is offering supplemental reading (grades 3 - 8) and writing classes (grades 3 - 6), along with core English classes. Our Social Sciences department has added 6th Grade History, and our Science department has added 6th Grade Science. This gives a full selection of online core offerings for grades 6 through 12. Please be sure to check out the Master Class List located on the resource center tab on your school's website for your school's class offerings including some new elective courses!

Please be sure your students know their school email login information. If your student does not have a school email, please fill out a [GAFE form](#) (Google Apps for Education Permission form) found on the Forms tab on the school's home page. They will need their school email address to log into their Canvas account and then generate a unique Canvas password that will be used for future Canvas logins. Directions for logging in have been sent out via the Parent Listserve. It's also helpful for your student to have a headset as one will reduce background noise that can be distracting.

Our online class sessions started the week of August 24; however, most classes have assignments starting the first day of school. Please check the syllabus/pacing guide of each class for assignments. These can be found on the Quick Links button, Online Platforms, on your school's home page. Our instructors understand the challenge some may face in ordering/receiving textbooks. Please don't hesitate to contact them!

We are pleased to roll out our new Canvas system but understand there are always issues with new technology. Our instructors know that some of the students have had difficulty logging in or accessing their assignments. Please know our instructors are flexible and due dates can be extended. We don't want the start of the school year to be stressful for our families.

If you have not already done so, please be sure to sign a [GAFE form](#) so that your students have an active school email account. You will find this very helpful in communicating with your instructor.

We encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities in Canvas:

Student Training Course: [Enroll in our Student Training Course: Passport to Canvas](#) or go to <https://cwcs.instructure.com/enroll/HARXH3>

Observer Role for ESs and parents: This role allows you to see what your student is working on, what is coming up due, and their current grades. [Click here for more information!](#)

Thank you for your patience as we work through the implementation process! We wish you a great school year!

Social Studies Department News

Welcome back to school from the Social Studies department! We are still using the adopted Pearson curriculum and digital platform, but please note that the name has changed to **Savvas**. You can find curriculum through the Atrium library reserve system (while supplies last) or you can ask your ES to order for you. We transitioned from the Moodle to Canvas LMS for our online classes, and we are enjoying our classes!

Fall Courses for 2020-21. Here are the online classes we are offering for fall. We have had an incredible turnout. We are keeping an eye on enrollment numbers to determine if additional sections will be added.

6th Grade History, Tuesdays @ 2:15 p.m. M. Alcorn. CP#3019E

7th Grade History, Tuesdays @ 1:30 p.m. S. Rickman. CP#3020E

8th Grade History, Mondays @ 9:00 a.m. A. Ferreira. CP#3007E

a-g World History A, Tuesdays @ 9:30 a.m.(CP#3003agE), 10:45 a.m. (CP#3002agE) A. Ferreira.

a-g US History A, Tuesdays @ 10:00 a.m.(3004agE) & 11:30 a.m.(3005agE) S. Rickman

a-g American Government, Wednesdays @ 9:00 a.m. (3009) & 10:30 a.m. J. Orr. (3008)

a-g Economics, Mondays @ 2:15 p.m. M. Alcorn. CP#3000agE

a-g Psychology 1A, Wednesdays, 12:00 p.m. J. Orr. CP#3011agE

8th grade history classes through the Bridge program.

Savvas (Pearson) Realize Login Instructions

Reach out to your ES or the online instructor if you are having difficulty logging into this digital platform. This site is a nice supplement to the textbook for videos, interactive maps/galleries, etc.



Online Curriculum Login

[K-8 Pearson MyWorld Social Studies & 9-12 Pearson CA History Textbooks](#)

Login Format:

Student Access:

Student ID (enter Student ID#)

Username: StudentIDcwcs

Password: CwStudentID! (use uppercase "C" as first character; exclamation point at the end)

Example: Student John Smith; Student ID#: 5432

User: 54321cwcs

Password: Cw54321!

If you want to recognize 9/11 with your students, here are a couple of websites you can check out:

[9/11 Memorial & Museum](#)

[Scholastic- Understanding September 11](#)

Assessment Department News

CAASPP – California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress

Due to the continued concern in regards to the Covid-19 Virus, we are restructuring how we will be administering the Annual State Standardized testing. Our plan is to utilize our Resource Center classrooms so that we can control the level of sanitation required to avoid spread of the virus. We plan on testing students in small groups, preferably with familiar family/friends/study groups. Students will be scheduled for 2-3 hour sessions over the course of 2-4 days, dependent upon their grade and tests required. In order to accomplish this, we will have our test administrators following a schedule from 8:30 am to 4:30pm daily, testing several groups throughout their day. We understand there may be more travel time involved for those families living a distance from their Resource Center. Please understand, we are choosing to opt for safety for our students and our staff.

We will adapt as situations arise and go forward with understanding and patience.

Rosetta Stone Online Language Programs News

All CW schools now offer enrollment for online access to Rosetta Stone throughout the year. The cost will be approximately \$125 per student for all levels of one language until July 31, 2021. If your student finishes a level before the time is up, they may move on to the next level. The program has modules available for 26 languages (see Rosetta Stone Languages, using the Foundations Flash Free platform). If you change your mind about the language chosen, your ES may contact the administrator to change to another language. You and your ES will have online access to downloadable progress reports. You will also have access, through your ES, to downloadable workbooks and tests (currently available in English, Spanish, French, German, and Latin) and only audio files for Italian). For High School students desiring credit, you will need to add EE access, currently available in several languages. See your ES for details.

Rosetta Stone correlates to state and national standards for English as a Second Language (ESL) and World Language Studies. To see how it works and try an online demo. Go to Rosetta Stone Demo and click on "Start Free Trial".

Rosetta Stone System requirements can be found by going here: System Requirements. You must have a High Speed Internet connection and a microphone headset. The program now also works on iPads, Chromebooks, and mobile devices, though you will need a full computer for the quizzes and writing modules.

If interested, please email your ES to sign you up. Your ES will need the following information to request a license:

- Student Name
- School
- Language Desired
- New to Rosetta Stone, Continuing from last year, or Continuing but changing to a new language

Your ES will email you log-in information when the license is activated. Note that we use our own CW Rosetta Stone site, not rosettastone.com. Also, many public libraries offer free access to a version of Rosetta Stone using your library card. This is suitable for TK-8 students not seeking High School credit. Your ES will not have oversight access and our Rosetta Stone Coordinator will not be able to make any changes to your account if you use the free site.

Questions? Contact ES Shelly Brooks, sbrooks@cwcharter.org.

2021 Promotion/Graduation Information

Attention: 8th Graders and Seniors!

Congratulations to all of those who will be promoting / graduating in 2021; you're almost there! How fast the years have flown by, and this one will be no exception. CWCS is planning an 8th grade promotion to be held May 18, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. and a senior graduation to be held May 20, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at the Waterford High School gym. The goal of the staff is to make these events truly memorable for the participants, their families, and friends.

In order to help us achieve our goal, there are some important dates that you will need to remember.

Nov. 2 - Eighth grade promotion & Senior graduation participation information forms due (earlier deadline to avoid holidays)

Jan. 15 -The topic of the speech provided by the school below

Feb. 1 - 8th grade promotion & senior graduation participation information forms due for late enrollees

Feb. 5 - Senior graduation cap & gown order due to Academic Affairs (only required for Senior grads) (They will only accept money orders for payment by mail or order [online](#))

Feb. 5 - Senior graduation announcements order forms due to Academic Affairs (They will only accept money orders for payment by mail or order [online](#))

Mar. 1 - Deadline to have student speeches or performances due to the school office. Any performances or speeches emailed to the incorrect email address will not be

accepted for any reason. It is your responsibility to follow up by email to confirm received prior to deadline date.

May 18 (Tuesday) - 8th grade promotion **mandatory** practice check in 3:30 p.m. and 8th grade promotion at 7:00 p.m.

May 20 (Thursday) - Senior graduation **mandatory** practice check in 3:30 p.m. and senior graduation at 7:00 p.m.

If you do not submit your participation form by the deadline date, your student will not be able to participate in the ceremony, and honorees and acknowledgements will not appear on the program. Deadlines are final, and there are no exceptions due to the necessary preplanning for this event.

We are providing the opportunity for one or more of the graduates to give a short 3 - 5 minute speech during the graduation ceremony. The topic of the speech will be provided by the school. **All performances and speeches must be received by 3:30 p.m. on March 1, 2021, to the school office to be considered.** We would also like for our students to share their talent at promotion/graduation. The talent should be representative of what was learned or enhanced through school teachers and/or vendors. In the past, students have played musical instruments, sung, and given a ballet performance. All performances will need to be submitted in CD or DVD and in PC format, or you can send us your YouTube link (**preferred method**). Please notify Mary Vinnedge by email at mvinnedge@cwcharter.org prior to March 1, 2021, if you wish to perform. The promotion / graduation performance committee will choose and approve the performances and speeches for the promotion/graduation. Any performances must be non-sectarian and representative of classes paid for by CWCS. May this year be an exciting and productive year for all of you! If you have any graduation questions or comments, please contact Mary Vinnedge by email at mvinnedge@cwcharter.org .

All forms can be accessed through the links below:

[Connecting Waters \(CW\)](#)

[Connecting Waters East Bay \(CWEB\)](#)

[Connecting Waters Central Valley \(CWCV\)](#)



Welcome New Staff

Kelly Lonergan, Education Specialist

Hi, CWCS! I am thrilled to join the team this year. I've had the pleasure of teaching and learning with children for over ten years. I'm about to start my second year living in San Jose after 7 years in San Diego. I've taught General Education and Special Education in both charter and traditional public school settings. When not at school, I love to read novels, practice yoga, and hike around Pogonip in Santa Cruz. I'm also 27 years into my quest for the perfect cup of coffee. Recommendations are always welcome. I am looking forward to this year's new skill-building as a newbie ES. There's so much to learn!

Margarita Farias, Education Specialist

Hi, my name is Margarita Farias and I am excited to be a new member at CWCS. I enjoy learning and teaching. To relax, I like to be outside with nature, walking, hiking or star gazing. For fun, I like to have movie night with my family, eat goodies and play games. I look forward to meeting you virtually or in person.

Monica Haddad, Education Specialist

Hi CWCS staff. My name is Monica Haddad and I live in Berkeley with my husband, my 18 year old son, and our beloved senior Tibetan Terrier mix dog. I have a background as a Spanish bilingual public school teacher and once owned and directed my own preschool center that focused on social and emotional literacy. My hobbies are watching movies, reading suspense novels, and going on walks by the water. I am looking forward to meeting you and collaborating with you!

Jacque Journeay, Education Specialist

I am a native to the San Francisco Bay Area and grew up in Alameda. I attended San Francisco State University where I graduated in 2015 with a bachelors degree in Anthropology and permit for Early Childhood Development instruction. In July 2019, I returned from Peace Corps in Mongolia where I served as an Education & Youth Development specialist for 27 months. When I'm not working, you can find me volunteering with local youth empowerment groups or spending time in the outdoors with my family.

Kelley Rhoads-Valadez, Education Specialist

My name is Kelley and I recently moved to Fremont from the Peninsula with my husband and two young children. I've been working in educational settings for over 15 years, in after school programs, teaching and counseling middle and high school students in Mexico, directing an elementary school and running my own language school in Mexico, teaching Dual Immersion Spanish to K/1st in Sonoma County, and most recently directing a Preschool in Redwood City. I'm very excited to join CW and support families as they pursue educating their children at home.

Alida Rodriguez, Education Specialist

Hello CWCS staff. My name is Alida Rodriguez. I am a mom of 3, one daughter and two sons, and am married to the love of my life. I really enjoy being outside and enjoying nature. I grew up surrounded by a walnut orchard and am back raising my children on the same ranch. I graduated from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, with a degree in International Business Management and then left to explore the world, which led me to Russia where I worked teaching youth English. After traveling Europe, I came back to the USA and began teaching with Venture Academy. The last eight years I taught at the Historic Durham Ferry site as a 7th/8th grade teacher in a (mostly) self-contained classroom. After a decade with San Joaquin County Office of Education, I left so that I could be more available for my own children, and I am very excited to be working with Connecting Waters Charter School.

Elizabeth Opena, Math Teacher

I was born and raised in the Philippines. It was there that I received my Bachelor of Science degree in Math from the University of the Philippines. In 2004 my family migrated to the US and lived in the Bay Area for a few years where I taught Math in Christian Schools. In 2010, my family moved to San Antonio, Texas where I took my masters. I received an MA in Education with concentration in Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, a teaching credential, and MS in Math Education from the University of Texas at San Antonio. I taught middle school math while going to school.

After graduation in 2016, I moved back to the Bay Area still teaching middle school Math. I have been in the classroom for more than 20 years already, but this is my first year of purely distance learning. Thanks to the development of technology in the classroom!

Even before teaching at Connecting Waters Charter School, I am already involved with my grandson, Judah Hallel, who is homeschooled by his mom under the umbrella of CW East Bay! He is now going to third grade. I spend my free time practicing the piano. Otherwise, I am with my grandchildren. My daughters always take advantage of my vacations for baby-sitting! These are the only times I get to spend time with them.

It is a pleasure for me to be with CWCS. I had been driving to and from school since I started my profession as an educator. But now, I am very excited to start my 10-seconds walk to my classroom and enjoy the time with my students!

Karen Van Elderen, Education Specialist

Hi! My name is Karen Van Elderen. I live in Escalon out in the country with my husband and 4 boys- ages 15, 13, 10, and 7. I am a credentialed teacher with my masters degree in curriculum and instruction. I taught 2nd grade and 4th grade prior to having my kids. I'm excited to work for Connecting Waters and meet all of you! (Hopefully someday in person and not over zoom.)

Meika Harmon, Education Specialist

My name is Meika Harmon. My husband and I have been married for twenty one years. We have three children. My oldest just graduated from high school this year and is heading to Cal Baptist University in the fall. Our last two are twin boys who are 16 years old. I graduated from Stanislaus State University with a business degree and then transferred into the credential program and earned a CLAD Multiple Subject Credential. I taught four years at Richard Moon School and then became a full time Mom for the last 18 years. I also have been very involved in our community. My husband and I started a foundation to benefit families who have been impacted by Autism. Currently I hold the role as President on the Miracle League Board. The Miracle League is an adapted baseball league for children with special needs. I am looking forward to this next chapter in my life, as I step into the role of Education Specialist at Connecting Waters.

Marla Martin, CTE Teacher/Community College Liaison

Back in the saddle. After taking time off to raise my daughter, I'm excited to be back teaching. In total, I've taught 18 years, with most of my years at Tracy High School as the Child Development and Education Career Path Coordinator and teacher of the Child Development and Child Care and Education I and II courses I have two adult sons, a daughter-in-law, an adorable grandson, as well as a teenager. I'm excited to work with students again, sharing my knowledge in the field and assisting them in their personal and career goals. Especially interested in social emotional development, I enjoy guiding students in the exploration of their personal passions and interests to create a life full of productivity, creativity and connections.

Savannah Gustafson, Site Assistant

Hi! My name is Savannah Gustafson. My mom, Keri Gustafson, works with Connecting Waters as an education specialist. I am 18 years old and just graduated from Oakdale High School. I will be working part time at Connecting Waters while I attend California State University - Stanislaus for a bachelor degree in political science. So excited to join the team here at CWCS! :)

