

Curriculum & Assessment News

With all this rain some may be wondering if spring will ever come, but rest assured, spring is around the corner, and with spring comes thinking about next year. Keep these things in mind when you start planning your curriculum for next year.

Spotlight on Math Curriculum: Parents' Choice

Last year we surveyed over 250 of our families who had students who met or exceeded state math standards on their 2019 CAASPP assessment to find out what they were doing. We are excited to share a summary of the results with you once again:

- An average of 57% of the students used a CWCS recommended core math curriculum **or** another state adopted curriculum (found on the [CDE Webpage](#));
- Another 23% of students used a CWCS recommended Concepts & Skills Review Curriculum with their core program to fill gaps and ensure standards mastery;
- 97% of the students received 4-5 hours or more of math instruction each week.

Other than the Recommended CWCS Core and Supplemental (Concepts & Skills Review) Curriculum used by over 80% of the students who met or exceeded standards, some favorite textbooks reported included:

- Beast Academy
- Mammoth Math
- Art of Problem Solving
- Singapore Math
- Saxon Math

View our Recommended Curriculum Page by visiting our website and go to >>Departments>>Curriculum>>Recommended Curriculum.

Getting Ready for Science

The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) are content standards for Science, fully implemented by California in 2017. The current state standards for English Language Arts include literacy components in science, but they do not include the content that is the California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS). The last California Science Standards were adopted in 1998. In the last 20 years, there have been significant advances in science and technology; therefore, updated science standards are necessary for students of California. The good news is these standards focus more on hands-on science than just learning facts. That's something our kids will have fun with! California adopted new textbooks aligned to these new Next Generation Standards. The current adoptions can be viewed on the [CDE Webpage](#). Several Connecting Waters families piloted the new Pearson Elevate Science Program last year and provided overwhelming positive feedback about the program. Our recommended curriculum page includes the new science option. Our science teachers will also be extending the Elevate program into our Science Department Classes.

Whatever you decide, be sure that when selecting curriculum, you look for ways to implement the cornerstones of NGSS: Core Disciplinary Ideas along with Cross Cutting Concepts (how do the sciences relate to other sciences and subjects), Practices (scientific thinking and behaviors), and Engineering Practices.

Here are some resources to help your science planning for next year:

- [About the NGSS Standards](#)
- [Additional NGSS Resources](#)

Check out these wonderful videos and online lesson plans with NGSS standards including cross cutting concepts. The videos are high quality and excellent: [Shape of Life](#)

Other Curriculum Support

Be sure to ask your ES about other curriculum supports we created, such as our **Collections Companion** project and our **“I Can” Math** support guides to strengthen your student’s English Language Arts and Math development.

Concepts and Skills Review & Student Achievement

Everyone has been working hard this year on grade level concepts and skills. Students are making great progress, and the recent data from the school-wide benchmarks reflect it, showing that the personalized learning model charter students can perform just as well or better than traditional-school students. Keep up the great work!

In planning your student’s grade level concepts and skills review programs for next year, keep in mind our recommendations: Study Island, MobyMax, Common Core Coach, Core Skills, On Core, and now, Education Galaxy, are all great choices. Be sure to ask your ES about these great options.

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 & Assessment Director, at sjohnson@connectingwaters.org or call me at 209-874-1119 x252.



English Learner Department

Hello parents and students,

Did you know that the state of California has a new publication to support our English Learner students? This publication, “Improving Education for Multilingual and English Learner Students,” is meant to provide guidance to educators on how best to serve our English Learner students.

Chapter four, the most recent chapter from the CDE Book Club on the text, discusses how we can best serve our Dual Language Learners. Dual Language Learners are

children from the ages of zero to five who are exposed to two or more languages. These young learners are at the beginning of their educational journey and they need our support! Many of our foundations for literacy are built at this young, yet important, age. Children learn about names for objects, how letters are formed, how books are opened, how words are read across a page, and how we communicate with one another.

Do you have a young Dual Language Learner either in your family or friend group? If you do, I highly recommend logging onto the California Department of Education's website and reading chapter 4 of this great free resource! Just in case you don't have time to log in and read this chapter, here are some tips on supporting our Dual Language Learners.

- Use their home language to support their learning of English. For example, as they learn new vocabulary in English, remind them of the words in their home language. (We don't want children to lose their home language!)
- Get books from your local library in your home language and also in English. This will help them to develop connections between the two languages.
- Display language around your home. Label important items with their name in both your home language and in English.
- Write, write, write! Encourage writing in both languages! Writing is fun and it helps to cement language learning.

For more information on supporting our youngest learners, please feel free to reach out to your Education Specialist.

Mount Hermon Outdoor Science Day Camp

In March, fourteen 5th and 6th-grade CWCS students attended Mount Hermon Outdoor Science Day Camp in the mountains above Santa Cruz. They were supervised by a CWCS ES, as well as Naturalists and Mount Hermon staff. The weather was beautiful! We had a great time with team building games, hiking down to the creek, testing the creek water, learning about nature, and, of course, tree and rock climbing. We plan to attend the outdoor science experience again next year. Starting in the fall, details will appear in CWCS Newsletters and Listserve emails.



New Staff

- Stephanie Chervellera, CWEB Site Assistant

"Hello, My name is Stephanie Chervellera. I graduated from James Logan High School which is just blocks away from where Connecting Waters East Bay site is located. I feel very fortunate to be able to work in the community where I grew up. I have a 16 year old daughter who is a junior in high school. Since my daughter was in elementary school, I helped out in classrooms; I chaperoned the middle school dances, chaperoned the field trips whether it be to the Del'Osso Family Farm in Lathrop o, on her last one in the 9th grade, we went to UC Berkeley. I'm excited to start this new chapter in my life and I look forward to getting to know Connecting Waters families and helping them with the tools they need to make their kids successful."

