

Curriculum and Assessment Department News

Although the year is coming very close to the end, reflecting back, it has been a year to slow down and appreciate the things most important to us. I am looking forward to spending more time with my family over the Thanksgiving break and hope you can find time to relax with your family and friend groups.

Spotlight on Curriculum

Interested in websites that can reinforce what your students are learning? Check out these great websites to add a little variety in your curriculum.

[Khan Academy](#) – this well-established resource has provided free educational resources from kindergarten to college level classes. With a focus on math, science, and computing, numerous videos provide direct instruction to facilitate understanding of each topic.

[Teachers Pay Teachers](#) – educators and parents use this popular site to teach and supplement the curriculum. Lesson plans, worksheets, and teaching tips are available for free and for sale.

[Engage NY](#) – created and maintained by the New York State Education Department, this site has a wealth of resources for supplementing the curriculum. While designed for the New York State education system, the lessons are aligned with Common Core standards. It offers curriculum maps, video lessons, test guides, professional development, and a huge bank of resources for parents.

Intensive Instructional Support Programs & Strategies

When you are working with your student, especially students who may be struggling, be sure to apply these basic instructional practices that can be applied to any program:

- Use a strong core curriculum with explicit instruction that includes modeling, scaffolding, and prompting until students are able to apply a skill independently;
- Use a structured, research based intervention if needed;
- Use systematic instruction where skills presented build upon previous skills taught to connect with prior knowledge;
- Use Modeling frequently (for example, parent-teachers can use “think aloud” to model approaching and solving problems, including close reading strategies);
- Use and explain correct academic vocabulary (for example, sum, difference, product, quotient, punctuation, synonym, antonym, etc.);
- Use precise, simple, and replicable language when explaining directions and expectations;
- Use repeated opportunities to practice, build fluency (for both math and reading) and review (use both guided practice and independent practice);
- Allow for frequent opportunities to respond;
- Require specific error correction and feedback from the student so you understand his/her thinking process and level of mastery. Model the correct response for the student if needed and explain why the student’s answer was incorrect;
- Provide regular, timely and useful feedback to the student (while everyone loves to hear “good job,” this type of feedback isn’t really useful. Instead, consider being specific with what the student is improving on, and what will help the student improve his/her skills).

Talk to your ES or contact me if you would like more support in any of these instructional strategies.

Teaching Your Child to Read?

Be sure to also check out our additional [Early Literacy Resources for Parents](#) presented by our Reading Specialist, Nathalie Longree-Guevara, Ed.D, including the recorded webinar on the [Power of Reading](#). We recommend all parents with TK-2nd grade students watch this training and browse through these resources. These resources can also be beneficial for older students who are still learning to master reading fluency.

Parents Needed: Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) Parent Advisory Committee

We are in need of parent volunteers to serve on the Local Control Advisory Committee. It is vital we fill these positions. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered so far! Local Control Advisory Committee's responsibility is to advise the Administration and the Board about supporting the CWCS Local Control Accountability Plans (LCAP) with resources for our students using our Supplemental Grant funding.

Members will serve a 1-year term and should reflect the diversity of the community and the student body. We need representation (both parents and students) from Connecting Waters Charter School, Connecting Waters Charter School, *East Bay*, and Connecting Waters Charter School, *Central Valley*.

Members are asked to attend at least three (3) teleconference meetings (approximately 90 minutes each). **Meeting dates for 2020-21 are: 11/4/20, 2/10/21, and 4/28/21 from 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.** Your input is extremely important in helping CWCS schools with budget planning in regards to supporting our schoolwide goals.

To apply for this important position, please complete the [LCAP Committee Sign-Up Survey](#). ESs who have children enrolled in a CWCS school are also encouraged to apply.

Thank you, in advance, for supporting your school!

Visit our [LCAP webpage](#) for more information.

Questions? Contact Shoni Johnson, M.Ed./C&I, Curriculum & Assessment Director, at sjohnson@cwcharter.org.



Outdoor Science Camp News

Outdoor Science Day Camp: CWCS 5th & 6th graders will attend Mount Hermon Outdoor Science School Day Camps in the Santa Cruz mountains this year rather than a week long camp due to our current closures. On January 29th and March 5th our students have the opportunity to experience science outdoor adventures without overnight stays. The cost will be \$80 and will come from 2nd semester student funding. This event is not open to non-CWCS students. Parents are responsible for getting their students to and from camp and are not allowed to attend camp with their students. Masks will be required to be worn at all times. Parents are not allowed to stay at the camp during the day, but Mount Hermon is conveniently located near towns and beaches for their enjoyment. For more information about the camp visit [Mount Hermon Outdoor Science](#) and for activity options there is the rock climbing wall or the [Sequoia Aerial Adventure](#). When viewing the site, note that the day camps are not currently on the website as they are temporary while weeklong camps are not taking place. You will get a feel for the camp, staff, and location.

A CWCS ES will accompany the students. Counselors will be CWCS 11th & 12 grade students. Recommendations for counselors must come through their ES.

Have your ES sign up your 5th/6th grade student in the appropriate second semester Day Camp GEA no later than January 8, 2021 for Day Camp One or February 11, 2021 for Day Camp Two.

Parents fill out the following survey [Outdoor Science Day Camps](#). They will then receive an email with the necessary forms required. Parents will mail or deliver ALL forms to be received by January 8, 2021 for Day Camp One or February 11, 2021 for Day Camp Two to ES Amy Carlson, 841 Notre Dame Ave, Modesto 95350. Please do not send them to a learning center or school office.

Required forms include:

1. Risk Agreement Form
2. BOTH SIDES of Minor Health Form
3. Copy of BOTH SIDES of Medical Insurance Card
4. 1 copy of [CWCS General Educational Activity \(GEA\) Permission Slip](#) from the forms page of our websites.

Question? Contact ES Amy Carlson at acarlson@cwcharter.org

ROSETTA STONE ONLINE LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

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.

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

Christine Trejo	Melissa Cripe	Mary Halter
Guidance Counselor	CTE Coord/Guidance Counselor	Guidance Director
800-808-9895 x213	800-808-9895 x226	800-808-9895 x238
ctrejo@cwcharter.org	mcripe@cwcharter.org	mhalter@cwcharter.org

We are available in person by phone or online anytime; to schedule an appointment call 1-800-808-9895 x344 or email guidance1@cwcharter.org.

PSAT/NMSQT for 10th/11th graders - New Date! January 26, 2021

The College Board has opened up a new winter testing date for schools that are distance learning. We are tentatively planning to administer the PSAT/NMSQT test for 10-11th graders at both our Modesto and Union City Resource Centers on Tuesday, January 26, 2021. We will be closely monitoring the rules set by The College Board and will communicate updates to students, staff, and parents as they become available.

Where: CV Resource Center (Modesto) and CWEB Resource Center (Union City)

When: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 • Time: 8:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m. (approximately)

Why: Scholarships: Scores are used by scholarship programs, including the National Merit® Scholarship Program, to look for eligible students. For more information [click here](#).

PSAT 8/9: Update

PSAT 8/9: We will also be offering the PSAT 8/9 for 8th and 9th grade students; however, it will not be in the Fall. Date and details will be shared on the parent listserve and in future newsletters as soon as they are available.

AP Exams (Advanced Placement):

Any students interested in taking an Advanced Placement exam this Spring, please let your ES know as soon as possible. The Guidance Department will work with you to get you registered, but we need to be in contact with you. The College Board registration deadline is November 13, 2020, so we need to get the registration process started. Please email guidance1@cwcharter.org if you have any questions.

Information for Seniors-Class of 2021

School Secondary Reports and Transcripts for Colleges and Scholarships:

Private Colleges ask for a School Report and Letter of Recommendation from your School's Guidance Department. Connecting Waters Guidance Department provides this for you, but please give at least 3 weeks notice. Contact Guidance at guidance1@cwcharter.org

Transcript Requests: If you need an official or unofficial transcript sent, please allow 5-7 business days. Contact transcripts@cwcharter.org or call 1-800-808-9895 ext. 6 to request a transcript.

College Applications and Scholarships

Private Universities Right away start researching private colleges for application deadlines, career schools for information, and look for scholarships. Do you need to take the SAT or ACT? If you need help, contact Guidance at guidance1@cwcharter.org

CSU and UC Application Deadline is November 30. Apply for CSU (www.csumentor.edu) and UC (www.ucop.edu/pathways)

SAT or ACT by December – last month, for most private colleges, to take SAT (www.collegeboard.org) or ACT (www.actstudent.org). Make sure to use our school code; for CW use 053706, for CWEB use 050352, for CWCV use 053963 when you take the test.

Check out our Scholarship Information page at www.cwcharter.org, go to "High School," then "Guidance," then "Scholarship Information"

Financial Aid

We send in the CalGrant for you. YOU apply for FAFSA by March 2 www.fafsa.ed.gov

Class of 2021 Awards at Graduation!

Awards are given to graduates who meet the following criteria--only graduates who participate in the graduation ceremony will receive the awards:

CSF Life Membership Awards – graduates are honored with a gold cord for being an active CSF member for four (4) semesters. Applications due by September 15 to apply, go to www.connectingwaters.org, then Students, then Clubs and Activities.

NHS Awards – graduates are honored with a blue cord for maintaining at least a 3.00 GPA and high standards of service. Applications due by September 15 to apply, go to www.connectingwaters.org, then Students, then Clubs and Activities.

Community Service Award - graduates who meet the service requirement will receive a green cord to wear. Online application (go to www.connectingwaters.org, then High School, then High School

Guidance, then Community Service Hours Survey) is due by March 1, 2021.

Career Technical Education (CTE) Completers - Students completing any of the CTE 2 year sequences of classes will receive a red cord at graduation. They will also have this noted on their transcript.

11th grade students...UC Local Guarantee Eligibility in the Local Context Program

Connecting Waters participates in University of California's Eligibility in the Local Context program for 11th grade students. To find out if your student will qualify for participation, see [Local Guarantee \(ELC\)](#). Students with an academically rigorous course load will be considered. Criteria for consideration include: a-g course pattern completion (11 a-g courses completed by end of Junior year), a combination of Community College and a-g courses; 11th graders who have general courses but have completed at least geometry will be considered; students with above average SAT and/or ACT scores will be considered. Latest exam date for Juniors to be considered is SAT-May, ACT-April, and CW students need to make sure they choose their Connecting Waters school as their high school. For CW use high school code 053706, for CWEB use high school code 050352, and for CWCV use high school code 053963.

