

Curriculum & Assessment Department News

I have enjoyed working with so many families to assist in planning, selecting and implementing a variety of curriculum this year. I am excited to hear how the year goes with everyone. Please feel free to share your experiences, offer suggestions, or provide feedback about the curriculum you are using. With such a wonderfully eclectic school, it's so important to get feedback from our expert parents regarding the variety of curriculum we use to be able to make suggestions to others.

Getting Ready for the State Assessments

We want to encourage all students in grades 3-8 and grade 11 to complete the Smarter Balanced Practice and Training Tests at home with their parents. It is never too early to start practicing. Visiting these tests throughout the year will help you guide your student's instruction to areas where he/she may be struggling. You can use programs like **Moby Max** and **Education Galaxy** (provided at no cost to your instructional funding budget this year) to help reinforce skills that your student struggles with on the practice tests.

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](#)

[Practice Test & Training Test Access](#)

[Scoring Guides](#)

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. See below for a comparison.

	Practice Tests	Training Tests
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.

Grasp the CAASPP Sessions

We are excited to announce our Second Annual “GRASP THE CAASPP” program. We want to encourage all of our 3-8th and 11th grade students to actively participate. Students can earn 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 and win prizes.

Sessions will start sometime in late fall. Dates will be posted and announced.

For more information and to sign up, visit our [Grasp The CAASPP](#) website.

Watch for Listserves with more information and check back on the website for your grade level session dates.

2018-19 CAASPP Score Reports

All score reports from the 2018-19 CAASPP Administration period are available for review in the Parent Portal. Please be sure to review your student’s score reports with your Education Specialist. The California Science Test (CAST) results have not yet been released by CDE. Watch for Listserve notifications when these results will be available.

To access your score report, log into your Parent Portal from your school’s homepage by clicking on the **Parent Portal** button. Next click on the **Test Results** button, then click on the relevant button to access score file from the year you wish to review. Be sure that if your student has recently transferred schools within CWCS, you are accessing your Parent Portal Account from the school’s website you are *currently*

enrolled in.

If you'd like to schedule time to discuss curriculum ideas, plan lessons, create thematic units, or just have questions I can answer, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at sjohnson@connectingwaters.org or at 800-808-9895 x 252



English Department News

Greetings from the English Department,

I would like to invite students to join the Speech and Debate Club this year. This club is fun and challenging, and it gives high school students an opportunity to develop research, critical thinking, organization, persuasion, and communication skills. If you or your student is curious to know more, please email tmatranga@cwcharter.org for information, and meeting days and times.

I would like to thank everyone who signed up for the Connecting Waters or the Central Valley Spelling Bees this year. The Spelling Bee events will take place on October 11, 2019.

Connecting Water's Spelling Bee will be held at 13701 Yosemite Blvd, Waterford, CA 95386. Grades 4-6 will begin at 9:00 a.m. and Junior High grades 7-8 will begin at 10:30.

Central Valley's Spelling Bee will be held at 2000 West Briggsmore Ave, Suite A, Modesto, CA 95350. Grades 4-6 will begin at 1:00 p.m. and Junior High grades 7-8 will begin at 2:30 p.m.

If you are not registered yet, email cwsecretary@cwcharter.org before it is too late!

Thank-you for supporting the English Department's Moodle classes, clubs, and events!



English Learner Department News

Have you heard of the ELPAC? According to ELPAC.org, "The ELPAC is the test that is used to measure how well students in kindergarten through twelfth grade understand

English when it is not their primary language. The ELPAC is taking the place of the California English Language Development Test (CELDT). Information from the ELPAC helps your child's teacher provide support in the right areas."

There are actually two ELPAC tests. Students with a primary language other than English who are new to the state, new to the US, or new to the public school system will take the Initial ELPAC. This test determines if your child would benefit from EL programs or if their initial skills are enough to pass them out of the program. All English Learners will take the Summative ELPAC in the spring semester. You, your ES, and the teachers who work with your student can use these tests to aide instruction.

This is an exciting year for our students taking the ELPAC! The ELPAC is going to be computerized this year. The computerized test is created by the same company that brings us the CAASPP test. If you would like to help your child perform at their best on the ELPAC, then you can have them begin logging in and using the training tests. You can find a link to these training tests under the "Assessment" tab on your school's website under "ELPAC."



Social Science Department News

Did you know there is a ***National Council for the Social Studies: Preparing Students for College, Career, and Civic Life?*** They publish current articles, blogs, discussions, and events. Click here to access [National Council for the Social Studies](#)

Their Vision:

A world in which all students are educated and inspired for lifelong inquiry and informed civic action.

Their Mission:

The mission of the National Council for the Social Studies is to advocate and build capacity for high-quality social studies by providing leadership, services, and support to educators.

Pearson Social Studies Digital Access: The Pearson Realize platform is ready for students to use. If your student checked out a new social studies book from the library and is not in a CMS (Moodle) class, ask your ES to complete a survey that will give access.

Pearson Realize Online Login Instructions:

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

Login Format:

Student Access:

Username: *StudentIDcwcs*

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

Example: Student John Smith; Student ID#: 54321

User: **54321cwcs**

Password: **Cw54321!**



Developmental Department News

Online Managed Licenses (OMLs)

Talk with your ES to enroll your student in one of these wonderful online OML programs of Let's Go Learn, iReady, Ascend Math, Study Island, or ABC Mouse! The deadline to register is October 17. All programs will be activated and ready for use by October 31.

Developmental Classes

Hello Parents and ESs!

Our online Developmental Reading and Developmental Math classes have space available for YOUR STUDENT! *These classes meet the Intensive Intervention requirement for Tier 3 students in both CW and CWEB schools.* Don't miss out on the chance to have high quality, direct instruction for your student(s) 4 times each week. Here are the placement tests that you can administer to your student(s) to determine which class(es) they would fit into. Please contact your ES for further assistance with administering the placement tests.

- [Corrective Reading Placement Test](#)
- [Decoding Placement Guidelines](#)
- [Developmental Math Placement Test](#)

You can give the placement test(s) TODAY, alert your ES of the results and which class you'd like to enroll them in, and have them start attending classes tomorrow! Cost is only \$80 of instructional funding for the entire semester of classes, and the books/materials are complimentary (as available in the learning centers)!

Here are the classes that are currently available:

12:00-12:30 p.m.	Developmental Math Level A *Monday -Thursday
8:00-8:30 a.m.	Developmental Math Level B *Monday -Thursday
12:00 - 12:30 p.m.	Developmental Math Level C *Monday -Thursday
12:35 - 1:05 p.m.	Developmental Math Level D *Monday -Thursday
1:30 - 2:00 p.m.	Developmental Math Level E *Monday -Thursday
2:05 - 2:35 p.m.	Developmental Math Level F *Monday -Thursday
2:40 - 3:10 p.m.	Developmental Math Level G *Monday -Thursday
9:30-10:30 a.m.	Developmental Reading Comprehension Level A *Monday - Thursday
9:40-10:40 a.m.	Developmental Reading Comprehension Level B1 *Monday - Thursday
10:50 - 11:50 a.m.	Developmental Reading Comprehension Level B2 *Monday - Thursday
8:30 - 9:30 a.m.	Developmental Reading Decoding A *Monday - Thursday
8:30 - 9:30 a.m.	Developmental Reading Decoding B1*Monday - Thursday
8:30- 9:30 a.m.	Developmental Reading Decoding B2 *Mon.-Thurs.
9:30-10:30 a.m.	Developmental Reading Decoding C1*Mon.-Thurs.
8:30 - 9:30 a.m.	Developmental Reading Decoding C2 *Mon.-Thurs.



School Office News

2019/2020 College Concurrent Enrollment Forms
& Early Start College Forms Due Dates

Winter Semester must be received at the school office for an official's signature
by: November 20 before Thanksgiving Break.

Spring Semester must be received at the school office for an official's signature
by: December 19.

Summer Semester must be received at the school office for an official's signature
by: May 8.

Fall Semester must be received at the school office for an official's signature

by: May 20 before Summer Break

NOTE: Some colleges, especially Las Positas, have earlier deadlines; please make sure to check the college's high school concurrent enrollment policies.

Please remember that you must allow *72 hours (3 business days)* from the time the form is received in our office before you will receive the signed form. You can email your form to cwsecretary@cwcharter.org or fax it to (209) 874-9531.

*The following information is required for processing:
Course Number, Course Name and Units*

Signed Concurrent Enrollment and Early Start College forms can be emailed, faxed, or mailed back to the student/parent once approved.



Washington, D.C. Trip

CWCS students are headed to Washington, D.C. from April 13-17, 2020! This trip is open to all students of Connecting Waters Charter Schools. Students in grades 7-12 may travel on their own and students grade 6 and below must travel with a parent or a chaperone. The all-inclusive trip is just \$2,021 per student (\$2,321 for a double capacity adult) and includes everything from airfare and travel expenses, hotel accommodations, breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and all entrance fees. This incredible opportunity at this price won't last long, so register today! To enroll in the trip, go to [Explore America's Traveler](#) or call EF Explore America's Traveler Support at 888-333-9756 and enroll with our tour code: 2207540CF (The Office is located on the East Coast so please call before 2:30 p.m. PST if you plan to enroll by phone.)

We are very excited about the trip and hope you'll join us! Have more questions? Please contact Jamie Ulloa at julloa@cwcharter.org or (209) 874-1119, ext. 296 for additional information.



Outdoor Science School News

CWCS 5th & 6th graders will again attend Mount Hermon Outdoor Science School in the Santa Cruz Mountains. We will be attending the week of January 27-31, 2020. Cost will be \$275 and will come from 2nd semester student funding. This activity is not

open to non-CWCS students. Parents are responsible for getting their students to and from camp, and may not attend camp with their students. For more information about the [camp](#), (When viewing the website, note that we are NOT attending homeschool camp).

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

Have your ES sign up your 5-6th grade student in the second semester Camp GEA no later than January 10, 2020.

Parents fill out the survey at [MH Camp Survey](#). Then go to [Parent/Student Manual](#) to access the required forms.

Parents will mail or deliver ALL forms, to be received by January 10, 2020, directly to ES Cathy Moretto, 772 Cypress Street, Manteca, CA 95336. Please do not send them to a Learning Center or Office. Required forms include:

1. Outdoor Science Student Contract
2. Prescription Med Form (only if needed)
3. ALL THREE SIDES of Health Emergency Form
4. Parent/Guardian Waiver Form
5. Copy of BOTH SIDES of Medical Insurance Card
6. 1 copy of CWCS General Educational Activity (GEA) Permission Slip from the forms page of our websites the following for [CW students](#), for [CWCV students](#), or for [CWEB students](#).

Questions? Contact ES Cathy Moretto at cmoretto@cwcharter.org