

Welcome Back Message from Executive Director

We Got This!

Sherri Nelson, Executive Director

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year, which marks our 19th year serving students and families through personalized education throughout California! We welcome all new and returning families of our three schools: Connecting Waters (Waterford or School 1), Connecting Waters East Bay (Union City or School 2), and Connecting Waters Central Valley (Modesto or School 3). We serve a diverse population over a large geographic territory. We serve students who live in the following counties: Alameda, Calaveras, Contra Costa, Mariposa, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Santa Clara, San Mateo, San Francisco and Tuolumne. All of the schools are public schools and are under the umbrella of Connecting Waters Charter Schools (CWCS), the non-profit that runs each of the schools, and are sponsored by a school district or county office of education. Our main office is located in Waterford which is the office that I work from most of the time. We have an amazing team, and it is our pleasure to serve and support you throughout this year and to make this year a successful year for you and your students.

I never would have thought that in August 2020 we would still be dealing with this Pandemic in a similar manner as we were when the school year ended in May. You parents and students will be meeting with your teacher online, and they are only a phone call away as well. Each of our teachers (ESs) have their office hours for you to connect with them as needed. Some of our ESs are part-time and have fewer office hour options. Keep in mind that, with everyone in California starting off the year virtually, your ES may have children at home too, so we appreciate your understanding and flexibility. Our three resource centers are open by appointment only and materials can be picked up by curb side pick-up. Materials can also be shipped and charged to the Educational Units (teacher/student funds). We will be flexible and review our online status each quarter in accordance with the State Safe Schools [Monitoring List](#) to determine when it is safe to open our resource centers for in-person visits. We had planned wonderful in-person class options at each of our centers this school year, so we are hoping to be able to have these classes sometime this school year. However, we had planned at the end of last school year that all of our Resource Center Classes would begin online, just in case! So the shift by the State Governor didn't take us by surprise and we are ready. Please work with your ES to ensure that you have Internet and a device for you and your students to communicate with your ES and take any classes they will be part of.

Although we may not have full access to our resource centers and you will be meeting your ES online, please find confidence in the fact that CWCS is a home school/independent study (not distance learning) school, and, with the exception of these small adjustments, your child will not have any interruptions in their educational program. This is why you and many families have chosen our schools to educate your students particularly in these unprecedented times. Our experience and proven years of success have gained for us an excellent reputation within the communities that we serve.

Each year, we usually come up with a tagline that you may see in our email signature, on school spirit wear or in our different publications. This year is no exception and the tagline came from our Advisor team. It is not a new phrase, but one that has been widely used; in fact, Maria Sandoval, the school's main office coordinator, uses the phrase often: "We got this!" So I want you to remember this phrase; when things seem to be difficult and you're not sure how things will work out, say with us, "we got this." I'd like to also add that taking a deep breath first and then adding "we got this" is a true lifesaver!

Our first day of school is Monday, August 17. Make sure you are ready to go with assignments from your ES.

Our priorities for this year include:

1. Strengthen personalization for each student by:
 - a. Daily engaging our students
 - b. Curriculum training for parents and staff
 - c. Every student reading by 2nd grade
 - d. Strengthening writing skills
 - e. Use of local data to increase student proficiency
 - f. Providing new parent training (Tiger 101) and continuing parent training opportunities
 - g. Use of *IReady* progress monitoring help
2. Use social media to tell our story to enhance personalized learning
3. Strategic Plan through our WASC and LCAP Goals:

LCAP/WASC Goals

1. Increase the percentage of students who are on-track to graduate college and career ready
2. Close the achievement gap in the low performing students in English and Math
3. Increase the percentage of EL students who achieve proficiency in English Language Arts and Math
4. Community Outreach to foster positive relationships

Your ES is your first line of contact and your guide to navigate you through any changes each year. However, feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions as the year progresses.

We want to acknowledge and thank each of our board members for all of their tireless support and guidance to all of our schools: Robert Avila, Summer Hash, Jennifer Louie-Monzon, Jeana Sears, Megan Shipley, John Thompson and Nina Vieira who have each committed to serving the school to maintain its mission and fiscal integrity. Read more about each of our [board members](#). We are delighted to let you know that Connecting Waters Central Valley Resource Center has moved to 2300 E. Briggsmore. We will have our Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Thursday, September 17 from 10:00-11:00 a.m. This will be conducted outside.

Please plan to attend our online All Schools Back to School Parent Training on Friday, August 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Join us for our online Back to School Celebration and learn some cool stuff too.

Date: Friday, August 28, 2020
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Location: Online

Join us for this parent training to kick off the new year. Mark your calendar now! More details to follow.

Contacts: Shoni Johnson, Curriculum & Assessment Director sjohnson@cwcharter.org; & Bev Harris, Parent Support/ Resource Center Coordinator bharris@cwcharter.org

Curriculum & Assessment News

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a relaxing and restful summer. Over the summer I took time to organize for the new school year...I cleaned closets, set goals, and made a priority list. Taking time

to prepare and plan beforehand often helps the year begin smoothly and feels less stressful. As you begin planning for your new year, here are some things you may want to consider...

- What materials will work best with your student?
 - See an overview and list of recommended curriculum here: [Main school webpage>>Departments>>Curriculum>>Recommended Curriculum](#)
- What are your students' grade level standards this year?
 - See a list of all state standards here: [Main school webpage>>Departments>>Curriculum>>State Standards](#)
- What additional instructional support can you use?
 - Check out our course offerings here: [Main school webpage>>Department Classes](#) (scroll down to Quicklinks to find)
- How should you pace your curriculum to ensure completion by the end of the year?
 - Pacing and planning are important to ensure your student gets through all of the topics and standards for his/her grade level. For more information about how to align your curriculum to standards and create a pacing guide, speak with your ES or email me for a meeting.
- What materials should you supplement your curriculum with to ensure you have met all the grade level standards?
 - We have great suggestions for supplemental materials on our [Recommended Curriculum Page](#). Your ES can also provide suggestions for supplemental curriculum along with instructions on how to use the materials. If you are new to our school, you may have received some supplemental curriculum at our Tiger101 Training.
 - Also check out our [Approved Intensive Instruction options and classes for struggling students](#): [Main school webpage>>Departments>>RTI>> RTI Tier 3 Approved Option Program Descriptions](#)
- What academic goals and expectations will you and your student set for the year?

Perhaps you are simply asking yourself, "Where do I begin?" Please feel free to contact me if you would like to set up an appointment. Together, we can discuss your student's needs, brainstorm ideas and solutions, find curriculum, and develop a plan to ensure your student's success.

The beginning of the school year is also the opportune time to try new curriculum and decide what is working for you and what is not, so adjustments can be made. Many parents find using curriculum programs that are state-adopted and used in traditional schools makes planning time easier. State-adopted textbooks include all grade-level standards and complete pacing guides within the program, and therefore eliminate the "guesswork" of ensuring that content standards are met. All state-adopted programs include numerous project ideas and activities as well as supplemental support materials that can make learning fun.

Our Curriculum Department has information about suggested curriculum, standards, blueprints, sample pacing schedules, educational approaches and more! Feel free to browse around. We are also excited to bring some curriculum training videos that you can review to learn more about how to effectively use your curriculum. [Main school webpage>>Departments>>Curriculum](#)

STATE TESTING Get your fingers ready... Typing Program Recommendations

All students need to be able to type with fluency by grade 3. As we saw on the state exam (CAASPP), students who were fluent in typing skills were less frustrated when asked to type short response answers in ELA and Math. Students should begin keyboarding skills as early as 2nd grade. There are some excellent and affordable (FREE) keyboarding programs available. Here are some recommendations:

[Typing Club](#)
[Power Typing](#)
[Good Typing](#)

You can find additional typing program recommendations, including typing games for younger students, on our Curriculum Website under “Computer Skills and Typing”: [Main school webpage>>Departments>>Curriculum>>Curriculum Resources>>Computer Skills and Typing](#)

Speaking of the state exam, it’s never too early to start thinking about preparing your student for the spring CAASPP assessment! All students in grades 3-8 and Grade 11 will complete the CAASPP in March or April. This is not an assessment you can study the “night before” for. The CAASPP assesses students in critical thinking, deep understanding of concepts and application of concepts. Take some time to check out our Assessment Page with resources to support your student, including online practice tests found under the CAASPP page:

[Main school webpage>>Departments>>Assessment>> California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress \(CAASPP\)>> CAASPP Practice](#)

Does your student want to have fun while reinforcing grade level concepts? We want to encourage you to have your student “pop in” to our Grasp the CAASPP sessions! There is no need to sign up; just simply show up! Students love these sessions. They provide a fun learning environment through games with a qualified teacher who will review grade level concepts. For more information, check out our [Grasp the CAASPP webpage](#).

Transitional Kindergarten

We want to welcome our Transitional Kindergarten students! If you are a parent of a Transitional Kindergarten student and looking for some support curriculum, please check out these great resources:

[Main school webpage>>Departments>>Curriculum>>Curriculum Resources>>Transitional Curriculum](#)

High School Intensive Updates

We are excited to announce we will continue to offer the asynchronous High School Intensive Program! Our new and improved High School Intensive Program was driven by parent, student and teacher feedback. Our High School Intensive Program is designed to provide additional support in math and English to 10-11th graders who need it. Courses are aligned with core credit for math and English to help students stay on-track to graduate, and coursework is asynchronous to allow more flexibility and personalized schedules. Courses include a hybrid of digital interactive lessons and print materials. Courses are designed to support students needing help passing Algebra I and to help increase writing skills. If more support is needed, you can work with your ES to add additional tutoring or resources needed to best support your student. Your ES will speak to you if your student has been identified as someone who will benefit from this program. If you have questions, you may contact hsintensive@cwcharter.org.

Successful Programs Return!

We are proud to announce the *iReady* program will be returning this year. Our ESs will be focusing on training throughout the year in this program so they can support all students and parent-educators. Your ES will be discussing the *iReady* program with you at your meetings. *i-Ready Personalized Instruction* delivers powerful online lessons that motivate students on their paths to proficiency and growth. Driven by insights from the *i-Ready Diagnostic*, *i-Ready's* online K–8 lessons provide tailored instruction that meets students where they are in their learning journey and encourages them as they develop new skills. Take a look at the [iReady program](#). We are excited to partner with our Parent-Educators in this program to truly personalize our students' instructional needs.

Developmental Reading and Math Classes:

Does your student struggle to decode and/or comprehend what he or she reads? Does your student struggle with math? Perhaps he or she just needs a little help on certain concepts like math facts, fractions, or solving for unknowns... whatever the struggle, we are here to help! Struggling students may benefit from additional instructional support. Consider placing them in a Developmental Reading or Math class. Students are placed in the appropriate level based on their *iReady* diagnostic assessment with students who need support in similar skills. Teachers will customize lessons based on the student needs. These personalized classes are a great way to compliment your core English Language Arts and Math curriculum to “backfill” skills students may have missed in previous grade levels.

Students attend classes online via our web-based classroom with our credentialed instructors **three days per week for 40 minute sessions**. If you are interested in signing your student up or curious to see if he or she can benefit from these programs, please talk to your ES about how you can interpret the *iReady Diagnostic Assessment* or visit our Rtl Program page for more information. We will also be providing Parent Training throughout the year regarding these classes. Main school webpage>>Departments>>RTI

Have a wonderful year, and please do not hesitate to contact me, Shoni Johnson, Curriculum and Assessment Director, at sjohnson@cwcharter.org or at 800.808.9895 x 252 to discuss any curriculum needs you may have.

Parent and Educator Training

For CWCS Parents and Education Specialists
Offered by: Connecting Waters Charter Schools

We are excited to bring back our Parent-Teacher Professional Development Training sessions this fall! Based on popular request, the Back to School trainings will now be offered via webinar! These workshops will be open for all to attend.

Join us for our Back to School Celebration and learn some cool stuff too. Mark your calendars now so you don't miss this exciting event, and look for more information about topics you will want to sign up for.

Date: Friday, August 28, 2020

Time: Workshops Start at 9:00 a.m.

Location: Online – More information to follow

Schools: Connecting Waters, Connecting Waters East Bay and Connecting Waters Central Valley

Contacts: Shoni Johnson, Curriculum & Assessment Director & Bev Harris, Parent Support

Parents, Students & Staff Needed!

We are in need of parent volunteers to serve on the Local Control Advisory Committee. It is vital we fill these positions! The Local Control Advisory Committee's responsibility is to advise the Administration and the Board about supporting the CWCS Local Control Accountability Planning (LCAP) for all CWCS Schools with resources for our students using our Supplemental Grant funding. Members will serve a one-year term and will be selected to reflect the diversity of the community and the student body. We are seeking a minimum of seven (7) community members. Parents of English Learner, socio-economically disadvantaged and foster youth students are highly encouraged to participate. All students are encouraged to join and let their voices be heard! Members are asked to attend three (3) teleconference meetings (approximately one hour each). Meeting dates for 2020-21 are:

Wed. November 4, 2020 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Wed. February 10, 2021 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Wed. April 28, 2021 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Your input is extremely important in helping CWCS schools with budget planning in regard to supporting our schoolwide goals.

To apply for this important position, please complete the [following survey](#). ESs who have children enrolled in a CWCS school are also encouraged to apply. Thank you, in advance, for supporting your school!

[Survey](#)

Visit our website for [Information on LCAP](#).

Questions? Contact Shoni Johnson, Curriculum & Assessment Director and LCAP/WASC Accountability Coordinator at sjohnson@cwcharter.org.

English Learner Department News

What's new and why: Changes for our EL Program in 2020/2021

If you have looked at the class schedules for the 2020/2021 school year, you may have seen some changes! We spent a lot of time thinking about your kids. We considered what was working, what wasn't, and how we could make good changes that would positively impact our students.

One of the big changes that we have made is to the English and Escalate/3D classes offered through the EL program. Our English classes have traditionally been 3 days of instruction, with some extra English Learner supports (DELD) built-in. The feedback that we kept hearing is that our English Learner students needed more support in their English Language Arts curriculum, both in the form of direct instruction and of guided practice. Thinking about what our students needed, we then began to make changes. Coming in the 2021 school year, English classes will be 2 days of instruction for all students, and then a third day will be dedicated to our English Learners and their needs. This third day of instruction will replace the Escalate/3D class, and it will not be more work for our English Learners. Day three will look at both what was taught and what the students need to do next. The students will work with their teacher in these small group sessions, getting the extra support that they need to be successful.

Another big change is that we have done our best to ensure that grade-level English and Math classes don't conflict. In fact, you should also see that we have even more math levels available for your students! Math continues to be a big area of need for our English Learners. With this need in mind, we worked with the math department to add math classes and have made enrollment in a grade-level math class mandatory for our English Learners students.

We can't wait to see the positive results of the changes that we have made for our English Learners! Our English Learners bring so much to our school, and we can't wait to give back to them through these unique learning opportunities!

Social Studies Department News

Welcome to a new school year from the Social Studies Department! Our department is comprised of Melissa Alcorn, Lisa Dallimore, Amanda Ferreira, Judy Orr, and Shanda Rickman (Department Chair). The online classes will be moving from Moodle to Canvas this year. We are very excited about this widely-used, new format. Keep an eye out for trainings in the Parent Listserve.

This will be our third year using the adopted Pearson Realize/Savvas curriculum that can be purchased with instructional funds or checked out from one of our resource center libraries (while supplies last). This curriculum follows the state standards and has an online resource component. For ordering information and the Pearson/Savvas Realize log-in, go to the CWCS Curriculum Page. As you plan and prepare for the upcoming school year, I encourage you to browse our Social Studies Department page that has our class lists, goals, resources, and web links. For the Social Studies Department page, go to the CWCS website > Departments > Social Studies.

Proposed Fall Courses for 2020-21. Here is a list of classes we anticipate offering this fall! We are excited to plan for a new school year.

6th Grade History, Tuesdays @ 2:15 p.m. with Melissa Alcorn
7th Grade History, Tuesdays @ 1:30 p.m. with Shanda Rickman
8th Grade History, Mondays @ 9:00 a.m. with Amanda Ferreira
A-G World History A, Tuesdays @ 9:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 12:30 p.m. with Amanda Ferreira.
A-G US History A, Tuesdays @ 10:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. with Shanda Rickman
A-G American Government, Wednesdays @ 10:30 a.m. with Judy Orr
A-G Economics, Mondays @ 2:15 p.m. with Melissa Alcorn
A-G Psychology 1A, Wednesdays @ 12:00 p.m. with Judy Orr

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.

Outdoor Science School News

Connecting Waters Charter Schools will again be attending Outdoor Science School at Mount Hermon in the mountains above Santa Cruz. We are going in late January. The cost will be approximately \$275 and will come from 2nd semester funding. Watch future newsletters and e-mail Listserves. For more information about the camp, go to [Outdoor Science School](#) (When viewing the site, note that we are NOT attending homeschool camp).

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.

Education and Career Planning will be Asynchronous for all students starting Fall 2020-2021! Students will take either our asynchronous Edu/Career Planning 1A class OR Columbia College's Guidance 18 class to meet their Edu/Career Planning graduation requirement starting next year.

[How to Apply to Columbia College
Information for High School Student Applicants](#)

Asynchronous course- We are changing things in the fall for Edu/Career Planning 1A to offer it as an asynchronous course. This means it will not be offered on a specific day or at a specific time. We plan to continue to use the Career Choices book, and most of the course will be similar to the current course syllabus/pacing guide [Education and Career Planning 1A Course](#). We will be working on it over the summer to work out all the fine details. Your students 4-year graduation plan will be the sample for this class.

Why are we doing this next year? The CWCS Leadership Team worked on the new LCAP plan and decided that every high school student needs contact with a CWCS guidance counselor. Then the LCAP plan was presented to the LCAP Advisory Committee to make sure all stakeholders were in agreement with the goals. This is part of LCAP Goal #1 which is College and Career Readiness. To accomplish this goal, every high school student will take the Edu/Career PI 1A course with our high school counselor. We are allowing the Guidance 18 Columbia College class to count because it's taught by our counselor Melissa Cripe.

FAFSA Filing per AB 2015 for the 2020-21 School Year

Commencing with the 2020–21 school year... ensure that each of its pupils receives information on how to properly complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the California Dream Act Application, as appropriate, at least once before the pupil enters grade 12.

What is the FAFSA?

The FAFSA www.fafsa.ed.gov is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and is the application used for all types of federal financial aid – for junior colleges, trade schools, colleges and universities! Apply online between October 1 and March 2.

Who should apply?

All graduating students planning to attend a junior college, trade school, UC, CSU, private college/university, or out-of-state college/university.

What is Cal Grant?

These are grants from California given to all students who are eligible based on income. They ask for your GPA Information which is submitted automatically for all 12th graders by Connecting Waters unless you have opted out – option to opt out was on your Master Agreement and Acknowledgement of Responsibilities Form you signed with your ES.

Why apply?

Don't assume you or your family makes too much money to get financial aid. You should still file the FAFSA! Many factors affect your financial need such as the number of children in your household in college and the age of your oldest parent. What's more, a number of colleges require their students to submit a FAFSA before considering them for institution-based financial aid. Also, the FAFSA is where you apply for loans.

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 must use CW School Code 053706 when registering. For CWEB and CWCV, the goal is to begin participating in the Local Guarantee (ELC) program beginning with this year's 11th graders (Class of 2021).

PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 8/9

Save the Date! On Wednesday, October 14, 2020, as of now, we plan to administer the PSAT/NMSQT test for 10-11th graders at both our Modesto and Union City Resource Centers. We will be closely monitoring the rules set by The College Board and communicate updates to students, staff, and parents as they become available.

PSAT/ NMSQT:

- Who: 10th and 11th graders
- Where: CV Resource Center (Modesto) and CWEB Resource Center (Union City)
- When: Wednesday, October 14, 2020. Time: 8:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m. (approximately)
- Scholarships: Scores are used by scholarship programs, including the National Merit® Scholarship Program, to look for eligible students.

For more information: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10>

PSAT 8/9:

We will also be offering the PSAT 8/9 for 8th and 9th grade students on Thursday, November 5, 2020.

- Who: 8th and 9th graders
- Where: CV Resource Center (Modesto) and CWEB Resource Center (Union City)
- When: Thursday, November 5, 2020 Time: 8:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m. (approximately)

For more information: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-8-9>
<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10>

Class of 2021

College and Financial Aid Information!

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; 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 **CW use 053706, CWEB use 050352, 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

Online Workshops (offered by CWCS Guidance Department)

Senior Class Meeting – September 18, 11:00 a.m.– Contact guidance1@cwcharter.org for meeting link

College Basics Workshop - September 22, 9:30 a.m. – Contact guidance1@cwcharter.org for meeting link

Financial Aid and Scholarships Workshop - October 23, 11:00 a.m.– Contact guidance1@cwcharter.org for meeting link

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 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 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.

Guidance Department Educational Series

Education and Career Planning Course:

Grade Level: 9

Prerequisite: None

Dates offered: Guidance-led online platform course is required for this course. Go to “High School Guidance” on our website for more information.

This 5-unit (credits) Life Skills course is mandatory for all 9th graders. The course allows students to answer: Who am I? What do I want? How do I get there? Students will use self-evaluation tools and will research careers to begin to develop a high school 4-year plan as well as a ten-year plan beyond high school. Online Platform - Online class; check with your ES for day and time.

Textbook - Career Choices: A Guide for Teens and Young Adults by Academic Innovations. This text is required for the online class.

Senior Class

Meeting September 18 at 11:00 a.m.

Let's meet to talk about your Senior Year! What should you be doing this year? This online class meeting should last about 30 minutes; bring your questions. Please email guidance1@cwcharter.org for directions to attend online.

“College Basics 101”

Workshop September 22 at 9:30 a.m.

Not sure where to start? Find out! This workshop will focus on getting prepared for college, how to research your options and what it takes to get in. What courses should you take? How do you begin finding a college? Where do you want to go? Learn all about it! Please email guidance1@cwcharter.org for directions to attend online.

PSAT/NMSQT– Practice SAT for 10th/11th with National Merit Scholarship Qualifier

PSAT Wednesday, October 14, 2020 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at CWEB and CWCV. High school students are invited to take this practice test to prepare for the SAT exam. College-bound students should take the PSAT during the Sophomore and Junior year. You could qualify for the NMSQT scholarship program which is only available to juniors who score in the top 98th percentile on the PSAT. Please ask your ES to sign up your student. The fee is will be announced.

Financial Aid and Scholarships Online Workshop

Online October 23 at 11:00 a.m.

Introduction to Scholarships and Financial Aid information. How to find scholarships and where to find them. A must-attend event for the Class of 2021! Contact guidance1@cwcharter.org for the link.

PSAT 8/9– Practice SAT for 8th/9th graders

November 5, 2020 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., CWEB and CWCV

8th and 9th grade students are invited to take this practice test to prepare for the SAT exam.

Fall College Tour

TBA-Location to be announced! Contact guidance1@cwcharter.org for information.

High School Orientation Meeting

February 25 at 1:00 p.m.

Attention 7th and 8th graders! A very important meeting to discuss the importance of high school and the courses you should take. Do you want to attend college? A trade school? How about Junior College? Now’s the time to plan for your future! A must-attend event! Don’t miss out! Contact guidance1@cwcharter.org for the link.

Spring College Tour

TBA - Location to be announced! Contact guidance1@cwcharter.org for more information.

Attention all 7th and 8th Grade Students! CJSF is accepting applications for students for the 2020-21 school year.

CJSF is a club designed to recognize students who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement. CJSF emphasizes high standards of scholarship and community service for California junior high school students. CJSF encourages service to the school and the community while fostering pride in academic scholastic achievement. CJSF Membership is based on scholarship and is gained after qualifying grades are earned each semester. In order to become a member, the student must submit an application each semester the student is eligible.

CJSF Application DUE by September 15! Click here to submit the application online [CJSF Application](#)

Academic Clubs for High School Students.....

Did you know that CWCS has a CSF and NHS Club? CWEB Club information will be coming soon! Applications, due September 15. Use these links to apply: [CSF Application](#); [NHS Application](#)

College and Career Resources

Looking for resources? Visit the Guidance website at www.cwcharter.org then High School then High School Guidance . You will find the High School Catalog, Career Resources, Scholarship and Grant information, Grad Requirements information, and more!!!!

Looking for the right career or college? Try these websites: www.californiacolleges.edu; www.cacareerzone.org; www.studentaid.ed.gov ; www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org

Where is the best place to look for answers to your high school questions? See the High School Catalog under the High School tab then Guidance. Here's the link: [High School Catalog](#)

Free Online Virtual College Fairs at www.collegeweeklive.com

How can a student earn a 4.25 GPA? Here's an explanation of our "weighted GPA" policy.

Students who take UC Approved Advanced Placement (AP) courses or UC transferable courses (that meet a-g requirements) at Community Colleges will earn "Honors" credit on their GPA. Grades earned in AP courses or UC approved Community College courses will earn 5.00 GPA points for an A, 4.00 GPA points for a B, and a 3.00 GPA points for a C (D's and F's do not qualify for "Honors" credit). Connecting Waters offers AP English Language/Composition and AP English Literature/Composition. UC approved online vendors and AP courses can be found at cwcharter.org then Departments then Guidance. Questions? Contact Guidance at guidance1@cwcharter.org

What are "a-g" College Preparation Courses?

a-g College Prep Courses defined: "a-g" is the course code that indicates the student followed the approved University of California and California State University course description and used the approved text(s). Course descriptions and their textbooks are posted on the school's web page under the Guidance Department. Students must use approved texts and course descriptions for a-g college prep credit on the transcript. Additionally, the course must be taught by an Effective Educator (or "EE") who is properly credentialed to teach the subject according to CA credentialing standards. Talk to your ES if you need to find an EE for a subject! For course outlines, go to your school's website then High School then a-g Information.

Who should take a-g College Prep Courses?

They are for students who wish to attend a California State University or University of California directly out of high school. “a-g” courses are highly recommended for students wanting to attend a private college or university directly out of high school. Students who are planning to attend a community college should discuss this option with their ES. Students who have not completed the a-g college prep sequence may be able to qualify for admission through alternative paths and should talk to the college or university directly. Any student wanting to return to their regular high school to graduate should be taking a-g coursework, especially in English and History.

Is my child ready for a-g College Prep Coursework?

In general, a-g College Prep coursework is designed for students who read at the 7th grade level, although students who read at lower grade levels may be ready for the rigor of the coursework depending on the student’s goals and aspirations. Your ES can help you to determine the best placement for your child. All incoming 9th graders are required to take a math placement test to determine their math class.

Students must earn grades of C- or better in all “a-g” courses to meet minimum college entrance requirements.

GPA: GPA is calculated using only “a-g” courses taken after the 9th grade. Although grades from 9th grade are not factored into the eligibility GPA, grades lower than a C in a 9th grade “a-g” course will not count toward satisfying the “a-g” college eligibility requirements (and, in most cases, will need to be repeated).

- Minimum GPA for UC eligibility = 3.00
- Minimum GPA for CSU Eligibility Index can be found at www.csumentor.edu (go to “Preparing for College” at the bottom of the page and then select Middle School or High School)

Honors points: UC and CSU will award up to 8 extra grade points for AP courses and UC transferable community college courses.

For UC only, the freshman admission requirements are:

1. Complete 15 UC-required college-preparatory (“a-g”) courses, with 11 of those done prior to the start of 12th grade
2. Maintain a GPA of 3.0 or better (weighted by honors/AP bonus points) in these courses
3. Take the ACT With Writing or SAT Reasoning Test

“A-G” SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS. The University of California and the California State University require the following for admittance:

Area	Subject	Required Year(s)	Recommended Year(s)
a.	History/Social Sciences	2	2
b.	English	4	4
c.	Mathematics	3	4
d.	Laboratory Science	2	3
e.	Language Other than English	2	3
f.	Visual and Performing Arts	1	1

g.	Electives	1	1
Total Required Subjects			15

Community college courses can be used to complete “a-g” subject area requirements as long as the course is a UC/CSU transferable course. Many online programs are available; please consult your ES or contact Guidance.

Welcome New Staff

Donavan Castro

"My name is Donavan Castro and I am an IT technician assistant. Last year I graduated college with an associates degree in Computer and Networking Technology. I enjoy working on computers and finding solutions to new issues. I hope everyone is doing well especially during this time and I hope to meet the rest of the team soon."

