

# Curriculum Department News

With the end of the year rapidly approaching, it's time to start thinking about curriculum for next year. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions about what curriculums are right for you and your student. When looking for curriculum, be sure to evaluate whether or not the program will help your student dig deeper into concepts to ensure student mastery of standards and to enhance critical thinking and problem solving skills. Our goal is that every student can be career and college ready.

Please visit our webpage (Departments>>Curriculum>>Recommended Curriculum>>Curriculum Training Index>>Curriculum Overview) to view a brief podcast of how the curriculum is laid out and how to find the interactive features of our recommended programs. These programs have been thoroughly reviewed and vetted by our specialists, highly qualified instructors, and hundreds of our families with positive feedback each year. For ordering information and pricing, check out your grade level recommended curriculum price list.

## Spotlight on Curriculum

Looking for a way to make science meaningful? Check out this cool website (it's free)

[The Concord Consortium](#) is a nonprofit educational research and development organization based in Concord, Massachusetts. Their pioneering work brings the promise of technology into a reality for education in science, math and engineering. They want to help your students to learn more math and science. You can find your path through the Next Generation Science Standards with help from the Concord Consortium. They've developed a simple interface so you can easily discover activities that match up with the Next Generation Science Standards. You're just a click away from more powerful teaching!

How about adding some free math practice into your program? [TeAchnology](#) has over 2,000 free math printables that range in skill from grades K through 12. Want more? They also feature well over 12,000 printable sheets. This includes all major subject areas, templates, teacher timesavers, and forms! What a great resource to bookmark on your computer!

## Parent Tips to Help Prepare Your Student for Standardized Testing

All parents want to see their student(s) perform well in school. Parents play an important part in helping their children give their best performance on a test. This month marks the beginning of the state testing for students in grades 3-8 and 11-12. The ideas presented below (adapted from P. Garlinghouse) may serve as a guideline for parents when helping their student(s) prepare for testing.

The following list of activities represent things parents can be doing throughout the year.

1. Read to your children and/or have older children read to you.
2. Discuss with your student(s) what they have read.
3. Make sure your student reads at least 20 minutes a day.
4. Provide your student(s) with a regular, quiet place where they can do schoolwork each day.
5. Expect every child to take tough courses and have high expectations for what your child can accomplish.

6. Allow for “productive struggle” so that students understand how to persevere when faced with challenging questions and problems.

What your student is learning on a daily basis builds the foundation for being able to demonstrate high achievement on tests. During the weeks leading up to the test, begin to talk with your student about the importance of giving their best effort during testing.

The following thoughts will help you in preparing your child for being ready to give the test his or her all.

The night before:

- Help your child get to bed on time. Research shows that being well-rested helps students do better.
- Keep your routine as normal as possible. Upsetting natural routines may make children feel insecure.
- Mention the test to show you’re interested, but don’t dwell on it.
- Plan ahead to avoid conflicts on the morning of the test.

The morning of the test:

- Get up early to avoid rushing. Be sure to have your child at the test site on time.
- Have your child eat a good breakfast but not a heavy one. Research shows that students do better if they have breakfast before they take tests.
- Have your child dress in something comfortable.
- Be positive about the test. Acknowledge that tests can be hard and that they’re designed so that no one will know all of the answers. Explain that doing your best is what counts. The important thing is to make your child comfortable and confident about the test.
- Remind students that test-taking is a good life skill. (We take tests to get a driver’s license, to get a job, to get into college, and often even on the job.)

After the test:

- Talk to your child about his or her feelings about the test, making sure you acknowledge the effort such a task requires.
- Discuss what was easy and what was hard; discuss what your child learned from the test.
- Discuss what changes your child would make if he or she were to retake the test.
- Explain that performance on a test is not a condition for you to love your child, nor is it a complete picture of who your child is. You love your child just for the person he or she is.

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 at [sjohnson@cwcharter.org](mailto:sjohnson@cwcharter.org) or call me at 800-808-9895 x252.



## **Social Studies Department News**

A lot of interesting events happened this month! Check out this website for historical

events that happened in March: [The History Place: This Month in March](#). Are you ready for more daylight in March? Check out this website: [8 Things you may not know about daylight saving time](#).

## English Learner Department News

### Technology Readiness Checker for Students- TRCS

With technology becoming more and more a part of our children's everyday lives, how do we know when our kids have the technological skills that they need to be successful? That answer can be different for different situations. The state of California has developed a new program to help parents, teachers, and students know if a child has the technological skills necessary to be successful on state tests, especially the ELPAC.

What is this new tool? Well, according to the state of California, "The TRCS is an engaging, game-like tool that allows students the opportunity to navigate through a variety of screens and create a storyboard. The movements the students use while navigating through the TRCS is similar to the movements used in a computer-based assessment. The TRCS is not an assessment, does not provide scores, and is entirely optional."

The readiness trackers can be found at <https://trcs.ets.org/>. Students can use this tool over and over. The activities may seem too simple, but these easy tasks show us, as your child's educational team, if your child is prepared and can be successful with the state's assessment technology.

Please, as our ELPAC is in progress, log in and try the readiness checker with your child. More information on the TRCS and the ELPAC can be found at <https://www.elpac.org/resources/>.

## Outdoor Science Trip News

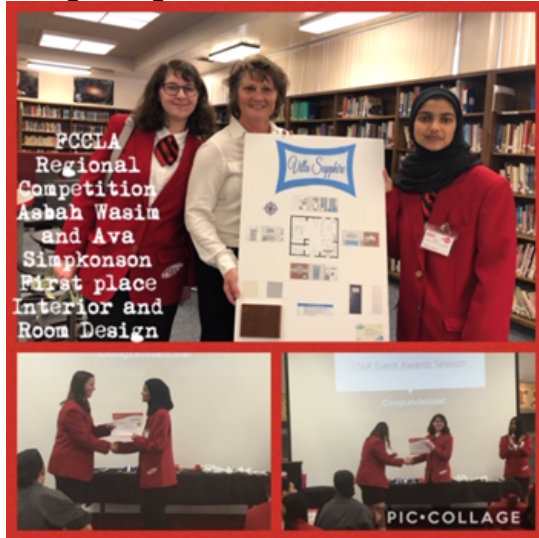
In January, 33 5th and 6th grade CWCS students attended Mount Hermon Outdoor Science School in the mountains above Santa Cruz. They were supervised by two CWCS ESs and 7 CWCS High School counselors, as well as Naturalists and Mount Hermon staff. 20 students paid extra to do a tree climbing option. The weather was beautiful, and we had a great time on day and night hikes, playing games, swimming in the heated pools, attending campfire with skits and s'mores, and learning about nature. We will be attending again next year in late January. Starting in the fall, details will appear in CWCS Newsletters and listserv emails.



## Student News

Asbah spent months carefully creating a room design project, and on February 8 participated in the FCCLA Regional Competition in Manteca. She won first place in the gold category for the Room Design category and is now qualified to move onto the State FCCLA Competition in April!

A Big Congratulations, Asbah!!



SPRING