

## Curriculum Newsletter Article

Summer is almost here! While you are sitting poolside with your children, why not soak up some reading with your rays? I've added some websites below that may be of interest to you and your students to help with skill building over the summer. Don't forget to practice those math facts too!



### SPOTLIGHT ON CURRICULUM:

If you have an incoming **Transitional Kindergartener**, please check out the following FREE resources for academic support to get started over the summer:

[PBS Kids](#)

[ABCya](#)

[Learning Games for Kids](#)

**Check out these great websites to use over the summer with your students to keep up reading skills and to practice math fact mastery!**

### [Book Adventure](#)

Book Adventure is an interactive reading assessment, management and rewards program. This online program encourages, assesses and rewards independent reading. Book Adventure free version allows users to test the program before purchasing.

### [Khan Academy](#)

Provides a multitude of free online mathematics and science resources.

### [Sumdog](#)

Sumdog has a limited number of free educational games to motivate your students to practice math, reading and writing - while you have full control over what they learn. For even more games, parents can also check out their subscription plans.

### [Math Playground](#)

Math Playground is a popular learning site filled with math games, logic puzzles, step-by-step instructional videos, math practice, and a variety of problem solving activities. Math Playground provides a safe place for kids to learn and explore math concepts online at their own pace. Math Playground games are free; no registration is needed.

### [FreeRice](#)

Freerice is a non-profit website that has two goals: Provide education to everyone for free; and help end world hunger by providing rice to hungry people for free. Your student can practice in 8 subject areas, including foreign language!

### [XtraMath](#)

XtraMath is a nonprofit organization dedicated to math achievement for all, offering **free**, effective, efficient, adaptive, and intrinsically rewarding supplemental math activities.

It has truly been a pleasure working with so many of you. Please do not hesitate to contact me as you are planning for the upcoming year. I can be reached at 1.800.808.9895 x252 or at [sjohnson@connectingwaters.org](mailto:sjohnson@connectingwaters.org). Have a safe and relaxing

summer!



## Assessment Department News

In the absence of 2019-20 spring assessments, there is a need to make some *temporary* assessment adjustments next fall for the 2020-2021 school year in order to ensure we have up-to-date data to best support our students' achievement and meet the requirements of state and federal laws. This Listserve is to inform you of what to expect for your student upon returning to CWCS in August.

We have piloted several programs throughout the years (AIMSweb, NWEA, iReady, Let'sGoLearn, Scantron, etc.) in order to help determine which programs best assess students' needs, support students in closing academic achievement gaps, monitor students' academic progress, support teachers and parents in effectively driving instruction, and create the least amount of stress for students. This type of assessment is a required component of our Response to Instruction (Rtl) program which meets the requirements of California State Education Code Section 47607.3 and 34 Code of Federal Regulations 300.309(a)(1). After much review, discussion and feedback from teachers, students and parents, we have modified our Rtl program to use iReady as both a diagnostic assessment tool and a progress monitoring tool. This will streamline the Rtl Process.

In the fall 2020-2021, **all students in grades 2-9\* and high school students** who have not yet passed Algebra 1 or a college prep (a-g) English class (with a C or better) will complete the iReady Diagnostic Assessment in Reading and Math **before** their first Learning Record Meeting. *For this fall test window, there will not be CAASPP 3 / 4 score exemptions due to the COVID19 cancelation of CAASPP.* The iReady Diagnostic Assessment program will take the place of AIMSweb and Scantron assessments. Students who place in the program (who fall below grade level target) will be required to work in the program throughout the year to help support themselves in the areas they are deficient. The iReady Diagnostic does not need to be proctored by your ES. Students can complete the assessment at home and pause the assessment as needed in a stress free environment. **It is important, however, that parents do not assist the students on the assessment in order for the program to accurately place the student in appropriate lessons.** More information regarding the Rtl Policy and completing the Diagnostic Assessment will be forthcoming, and your Education Specialist will be reviewing the information with you.

\*Additionally, since there were no spring test sites, all incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade students (current 8<sup>th</sup> grade students) were not able to complete the required MDTP assessment. This is a math placement test required under the Mathematics Placement Act of 2015 ([SB359](#)). Since the MDTP **must** be proctored by certificated personnel, we have decided to use the iReady Assessment for Math (or Scantron for those who have passed Algebra 1) in August for all 9<sup>th</sup> graders to complete with parent proctors, pending CWCS Board Approval. This will alleviate students having to come to a test site and/or ESs having to proctor the assessment. This means that ALL 9<sup>th</sup> graders must complete a math placement assessment, even if they have passed Algebra 1, as required by SB359. Any 9<sup>th</sup> grade student who has passed Algebra 1 will be required to complete the **Scantron Assessment in Algebra 1** standards.

However, the MDTP will still be required for younger students wishing to advance in Math (beginning Algebra 1 before 9<sup>th</sup> grade), as required by the CWCS Math Placement Policy, which must be proctored by the ES within the first 30 days of school. Please be sure to make arrangements with your ES if your student falls into this category.

Additionally, in the absence of 11<sup>th</sup> Grade CAASPP for our incoming seniors, those who wish to have a Math Placement assessment to ensure college readiness or to help with 12<sup>th</sup> grade math course placement, may also request their ESs to proctor the MDTP Algebra 2 or Pre-Calculus Readiness as needed.

ESs will continue to proctor WRAT Assessments on students in grades TK-1 within the first two learning record meetings.

We have done our best to streamline assessments for our students to meet the requirements of our charter authorizers, state and federal regulations, as well as to best support our students. As the state continues to develop requirements in the absence of state testing due to the COVID19 crisis, we will modify these plans if required to do so. If you have any questions about these requirements, please feel free to contact our Curriculum & Assessment Director, Shoni Johnson, at [sjohnson@cwcharter.org](mailto:sjohnson@cwcharter.org) or feel free to discuss with your ES.

Thank you for your partnership in ensuring continued success for our students.



**English Department News**  
By Teresa Matranga

Hello everyone.

The English Department teachers are looking forward to the beginning of the 2020-21 school year by offering new as well as continuing online courses.

Our new courses will be taught by Sherry Guidi:

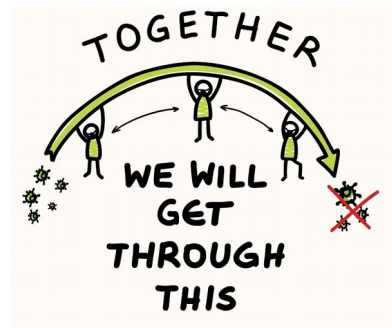
- Grade 5, English Language Arts, Mondays, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
- Grades 6-8, Novel Exploration, Mondays, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- Grades 3-5, Fun with Books, Mondays, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Contact [sguidi@cwcharter.org](mailto:sguidi@cwcharter.org) for questions about the above classes.

Information about our continuing courses will be available in August.

Reminder: All English Department finals will be projects. Please contact your ES or your student's instructor if you have questions.

*I would like to thank all parents for continuing to encourage and support our students throughout this challenging semester. We are in this together. See you next year!*



## **EL Department News**

The 2021 school year is fast approaching, and with that school year, you will see exciting changes for our English Learner students! This year we spent a lot of time looking at what our schoolwide data showed us. We knew that we wanted to change the way that we supported our English Learners, and we knew that we would need data to show us where our students needed teacher-guided instruction the most.

Unsurprisingly, we saw that, in addition to continued support in English, our English Learner students also needed teacher-led support in math.

Connecting Waters Charter Schools has had a program in place for many years to support our English Learners. We have been using Escalate and English 3D while we value and believe in these two programs, we saw that our English Learners needed support that worked in a more connected way with their weekly classroom work. The EL Department has been working tirelessly to develop a program that not only delivers state mandated English Language Development instruction, but also supports your student(s) as they move through their weekly coursework. You will see this new EL Support class on your child's schedule of classes next year.

I know that many people wouldn't think of math when they consider support for English Learners. Many of us consider numbers as a universal language; hence, there is no

need for extra support. While numbers may be universal, there is a great deal of academic vocabulary that goes with math. There are many academic math terms that children need to know to understand their math curriculum. Without these terms, our children are working at a disadvantage. With our English Learners in mind, we have added another math class and are enrolling all of our English Learners in math (where a math class is offered at their grade level), English, and English support class.

We are all looking forward to these exciting changes for our EL students. We can't wait for the 2020-2021 school year!



### **Social Studies Department News**

1. A-G Finals Information: A-G US History B and A-G Psychology B will have a project instead of a final. A-G World History B will have both a final and a project. A-G Economics and A-G Government will have a final according to the new A-G Finals Guidelines.

2. 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. All of the classes except Psychology will use Pearson curriculum. You can ask your ES to reserve curriculum through our school's Atrium website or it can be ordered using fall funds.

- 2.1. 6th Grade History, Tuesdays @ 2:15 p.m.
- 2.2. 7th Grade History, Tuesdays @ 1:30 p.m.
- 2.3. 8th Grade History, Mondays @ 9:00 a.m.
- 2.4. A-G World History A, Tuesdays @ 9:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 12:30 p.m.
- 2.5. A-G US History A, Tuesdays @ 10:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.
- 2.6. A-G American Government, Wednesdays @ 10:30 a.m.
- 2.7. A-G Economics, Mondays @ 2:15 p.m.
- 2.8. A-G Psychology 1A, Wednesdays @ 12:00 p.m. (Prentice Hall Psychology, Minter/ Elmhurst. 2012)

## Welcome New Staff

Erica Pierson

"My name is Erica Pierson. I'm currently going to Stanislaus State for my Bachelors in History, but will most likely be happily taking a break to focus on this. Eventually, I intend on possibly becoming a librarian. With both of my parents and one of my two sisters being librarians, it runs in the family. However, I've figured out that as long as I'm in an academic environment, I'll be happy. A fun fact about myself is that I used to sing with Townsend Opera Players, now known as Opera Modesto. I did that with my father from early elementary school to early college, but it has been about a decade since then. In conclusion, creative subjects and academics have always been important values for me, and I'm excited to get going with my career here."



## Guidance Department News

**Christine Trejo**  
Guidance Counselor  
209-874-1119 x 213

**Melissa Cripe**  
CTE Coordinator/  
Guidance Counselor  
209-874-1119 x 226

**Mary Halter**  
Guidance Director  
209-874-1119 x 238

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](mailto:guidance1@cwcharter.org).

### Class of 2020

Don't forget to send your final official transcript to colleges, usually by June 15:  
Transcript Requests: If you need an official or unofficial transcript sent, please allow 5-7 business days. Contact [transcripts@cwcharter.org](mailto:transcripts@cwcharter.org) or call 1-800-808-9895 ext. 6 to request a transcript.

### Education and Career Planning will be Asynchronous (occurring at different times) 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](#), but we will be working on it over the summer to work out all the fine details. Your student's 4-year graduation plan will be the sample for this class.

Why are we doing this next year? The CWCS stakeholders (parents, students, and staff) worked on the new LCAP plan and decided that every high school student needs contact with a CWCS guidance counselor. 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](http://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 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).

### **College and Career Resources**

Looking for resources? Visit the Guidance section on your corresponding school website, 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](http://www.californiacolleges.edu); [www.cacareerzone.org](http://www.cacareerzone.org); [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov); [www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org](http://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.

**Free Online Virtual College Fairs at [www.collegeweeklive.com](http://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 College courses 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 your school website, then Departments, then Guidance. Questions? Contact Guidance at [guidance1@cwcharter.org](mailto:guidance1@cwcharter.org)

