

## Curriculum & Assessment Department News

We are rapidly approaching the fall months, and that means we are in full swing of school. We hope the school year has started smoothly for all of our families.

[Back to School Reminders:](#)

### **School Routines**

Now is the time to establish goals, determine daily “school” or learning times, and set academic expectations. Taking time to set up a routine and consistently following it in the first few weeks of school can save hours of frustration later.

### **Grade Level Standards**

Prepare your student for grade level expectations and important end-of-the-year tests by incorporating grade level standards in your daily instruction. You can review all of the CA standards on our website. Click on Departments>>Curriculum>>State Standards. Many of the standards (especially ELA) are meant to be worked on all year to reach Depth of Knowledge (DOK) levels of 3 and 4. For more information about DOK levels, visit [Edutopia’s Depth of Knowledge Article](#).

Don’t forget the very important Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects Standards. These essentially remind you to practice expository reading and writing across all subjects (even math).

Lastly, remember to incorporate the [Standards for Mathematical Practices Every Day](#) into your math lessons (for all students grades K-12).

One thing we have done this year is provide **All** CW and CWEB students free access to two (2) programs that can help with grade level standards review throughout the year: MobyMax (for grades K-8) and Education Galaxy (for grades K-6). CV students have free access to Study Island. Your students will have access to their accounts automatically. Encourage your students to use these programs for 15-20 minutes per day in each subject to help them master their grade level content. Use the following information to log on (if you have trouble logging in, please contact your ES)

**URL:** [MobyMax](#) or **URL:** [www.educationgalaxy.com](http://www.educationgalaxy.com)

**STUDENT User Name:** StudentDistrictID#cwcs

**Password:** StudentDistrictID#

*STUDENT EXAMPLE: Student = John Smith; Student District ID# = 54321*

*User Name = 54321cwcs*

*Password= 54321*

### **CWCS Classes**

Our teachers are once again offering classes for many subjects and grade levels. These classes are a great opportunity for students to receive direct instruction from a highly qualified CWCS teacher, interact with other students, and learn in a truly unique

way. They also help parents manage what can be more difficult higher level subjects. Be sure to check the schedule for class availability, times, and course syllabi. There is still room in some classes, and it is not too late to enroll. Our class offerings can be viewed by clicking on the Quicklink button “Department Classes” on our main webpage.

### **Struggling Students**

If you have a student who is struggling in reading or math, they may benefit from our **Free** Developmental Reading and Math classes. For more information please visit our Response to Instruction (RtI) page (under the “Departments” link) and take time to talk with your ES about this program. Students who participate in these classes have shown high percentages of growth in just one year.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, Shoni Johnson, Curriculum and Assessment Director, at [sjohnson@cwcharter.org](mailto:sjohnson@cwcharter.org) or at 800.808.9895 x252 to discuss any curriculum and instruction needs you may have.



### **Social Studies Department News**

We hope your students have been enjoying learning about history at their grade level. We love our new Pearson curriculum for K-12 students, but it never hurts to enrich your lessons and explore with your students. You may want to check out these cool websites and see how they can supplement your lessons and get your students excited about history! We will share additional websites in future newsletters.

Click here for PBS Learning Media: [PBS Learning Media](#)

PBS and your PBS member station have curated **Free**, standards-aligned videos, interactives, lesson plans, and more.

Click here for Khan Academy: [www.khanacademy.org/](http://www.khanacademy.org/).

A non-profit educational organization created by Salman Khan, funded by philanthropic organizations (such as Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation). It offers videos, articles (with questions), exercises, and programs for all grades in a variety of subjects. It is integrated with Google Classroom to make assignments (in the form of interactive practice problems) and can track student progress.

Click here for [Smithsonian Education](#):

This site is for educators, families, and students. It offers standards based lesson plans, activities and teaching tools for many subjects, including history. You can search a

subject and grade level, then download a lesson with materials. Teachers are allowed to duplicate materials for educational purposes. Very user-friendly and comprehensive.



## English Learners Department News

Welcome back to school!

One of the areas that many parents and students struggle with is writing. It's the area that can, at times, bring tears of frustration as your child sits and stares at the blank piece of paper in front of them. Unfortunately, there are no magic tricks to make writing simple and easy. Writing, like many things, comes back to the simple "practice makes perfect" strategy. That being said, there are some things that you can do to make writing less stressful for your child.

- Write every day. Yes, every day. If it's something that you do every day, then it's nothing to be afraid of.
- Have them write simple things, like the directions for making a sandwich, following every step.
- Have them describe something they see every day, like their room or their favorite toy. Then, have them look at what they described and help them pull out the details (all of those lovely adjectives that make writing come alive!). Add those details back into their writing.
- Use My Access. This program is a fabulous self-help tool for your child. Ask your ES for tips to help your child use this amazing tool.



## Online Computer Aided Instructional (CAI) Programs

Just 15-30 minutes a day is all it takes for your student to close skill gaps and get closer to grade level! If you would like additional support on your student's Computer Aided Instructional (CAI) program, I can provide additional clarity and/or assistance for Exact Path, Let's Go Learn reading and math, i-Ready reading and math, and Ascend math as well as Study Island, Moby Max, or Education Galaxy. Let's make sure your student is using their program to the max and getting the absolute most of every minute spent!

Email Jamie Ulloa, Special Projects Coordinator, at [julloa@cwcharter.org](mailto:julloa@cwcharter.org)



## 2020 Promotion/Graduation Information

Attention: 8th Graders and Seniors!

Congratulations to all of those who will be promoting / graduating in 2020; you're almost there! How fast the years have flown by, and this one will be no exception. CWCS is planning an 8th grade promotion to be held May 19, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. and a senior graduation to be held May 21, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at the Waterford High School gym. The goal of the staff is to make these events truly memorable for the participants, their families, and friends.

In order to help us achieve our goal there are some important dates that you will need to remember.

November 4 - Eighth grade promotion & Senior graduation participation information forms due (earlier deadline to avoid holidays)

January 17 - Topic of the speech to be provided; see below.

February 1 - 8th grade promotion & senior graduation participation information forms due for late enrollees

February 7 - Senior graduation cap & gown order due to Academic Affairs (only required for Senior grads)

(They will only accept money orders for payment by mail or order online [www.academicnorcal.com](http://www.academicnorcal.com))

February 7 - Senior graduation announcements order forms due to Academic Affairs (They will only accept money orders for payment by mail or order online [www.academicnorcal.com](http://www.academicnorcal.com))

March 2 - Deadline to have student speeches or performances due to the school office Any performances or speeches emailed to the incorrect email address will not be accepted for any reason. It is your responsibility to follow up by email to confirm received prior to deadline date.

May 19 (Tuesday) - 8th grade promotion **mandatory** practice check in 3:30 p.m. and 8th grade promotion at 7:00 p.m.

May 21 (Thursday) - Senior graduation **mandatory** practice check in 3:30 p.m. and senior graduation at 7:00 p.m.

If you do not submit your participation form by the deadline date, your student will not be

able to participate in the ceremony, and honorees and acknowledgements will not appear on the program. Deadlines are final, and there are no exceptions due to the necessary preplanning for this event.

We are providing the opportunity for one or more of the graduates to give a short 3 - 5 minute speech during the graduation ceremony. The topic of the speech will be provided by the school. **All performances and speeches must be received by 3:30 pm. on March 2, 2020, to the school office to be considered.** We would also like for our students to share their talent at promotion/graduation. The talent should be representative of what was learned or enhanced through school teachers and/or vendors. In the past, students have played musical instruments, sung, and given a ballet performance. All performances will need to be submitted in CD or DVD and in PC format or you can send us your YouTube link (**preferred method**). Please notify Mary Vinnedge by email at [mvinedge@cwcharter.org](mailto:mvinedge@cwcharter.org) prior to March 2, 2020, if you wish to perform. The promotion / graduation performance committee will choose and approve the performances and speeches for the promotion/graduation. Any performances must be non-sectarian and representative of classes paid for by CWCS. May this year be an exciting and productive year for all of you! If you have any graduation questions or comments, please contact Mary Vinnedge by email at [mvinedge@cwcharter.org](mailto:mvinedge@cwcharter.org).

**All forms can be accessed through the links below:**

[Connecting Waters \(CW\)](#)

[Connecting Waters East Bay \(CWEB\)](#)

[Connecting Waters Central Valley \(CWCV\)](#)



## **Washington, D.C. Trip News**

I will be leading a group of students to Washington, D.C., from April 13 to 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 grades 6 and below must travel with a parent or a chaperone. The all-inclusive trip is just \$1,999 per student 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! Please attend the online parent meeting on Wednesday, September 25 from 6:00-6:30 p.m. Here is the link to [RSVP](#)

To enroll in the trip, go to [EF Explore America](#) or call EF Explore America's Traveler Support at 888-333-9756 and enroll with our tour code: 2207540CF (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](mailto:julloa@cwcharter.org) or (209) 874-1119, ext. 296 for additional information.



## Dodge Ridge Group Educational Activity

Our schools enjoy 2 ski trips for the year at Dodge Ridge Ski Resort. School funds can cover a lift ticket, equipment and lessons. These trips are planned for January and February. Dates to be announced as soon as we can get them available. Second semester funding will be used to cover this activity.

