

Curriculum Department News

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Happy holidays! Being almost half way through our school year is difficult to believe...And what a fabulous year it has been!

Getting Ready For The State Assessment

Our Student Learning Objectives (SLO's) formerly Known as ESLR's (Expected Schoolwide Learning Results) state that all students will be effective communicators in reading and writing, technologically and socially skilled individuals, historically aware, and science and mathematical thinkers. This is the perfect foundation to help prepare our students not only to be life-long learners, but to move towards proficiency on state exams. We encourage you to work with your ES on understanding how you can effectively support your student's growth in our SLOs. Additionally, you are welcome to give me a call or send me an email, and we can discuss curriculum options that can help you supplement what you are already doing at home.

Increase The Rigor

During this holiday season, we want to make sure you know we recognize all the hard work that each and every one of you put forth to help educate your child. Our ESs are also working hard to help support you in your endeavors of ensuring every one of our students graduate ready for career or college and life beyond high school. This effort begins from the very moment you join the Connecting Waters family. Here are some statistics we want our parents and students to be aware of regarding the importance of education.

Throughout most of the 20th century, a student could withdraw from high school and still have access to the middle class. In 1970, 74 percent of the middle class was composed of high school graduates and dropouts. By 2007, the middle class was composed of 31 percent high school graduates and only 8 percent dropouts (Carnevale, Smith, & Strohl, 2010). Furthermore, many high school graduates seem unprepared for the rigors of higher education. More than one-third of students entering college require remedial courses (Strong American Schools, 2008), and 34 percent drop out of college by the end of their first year (ACT, 2013). Only 36 percent of students who enter a public college have earned a degree within five years (ACT, 2013). These statistics are alarming because men and women who are not prepared to continue learning beyond high school will be increasingly left behind in the American economy (Carnevale et al., 2010). (DuFour, 2016)

Talk to your ES or contact me about ways we can support you and your student increase rigor in your program to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills, and to ensure your student is prepared for life after high school. It's never too early to begin thinking about the future!

New test preparation: It is equally important to the success of our charter to be able to show our authorizers that our students make progress while enrolled at Connecting Waters Charter Schools. In preparation for state assessments, we are excited to be able to offer CAASPP test prep for students. The test prep is from Brighter Education. In light of charter renewal, WASC, and data collection, **we need all students grades 3-8 and 11-12** to participate in this test prep

program. Parents should review the [instructions to login](#) with their students. Students should be encouraged to complete at least one practice test from each subject (ELA, Math for students in grades 3-8 and 11, and Science for students in grades 5, 8, 11-12). This test prep targets concepts at students' grade level. Keep in mind, students who are working in iReady who are not at grade level are getting intervention at their skill level. Students also need exposure to concepts at their grade level.

Checking Progress: Parents can log in as their students to view progress and verify the student has completed practice tests. Please have your eligible students complete at least one practice test for each subject before February 26. These results can help you determine areas you may need to reteach specific concepts.

CAASPP Testing Format Familiarity: It is also important to remember that students need familiarity with the testing format. The BrighterEd test prep gives students exposure to concepts only. Please be sure to have your student(s) use the [CAASPP Training Portal](#) to ensure they are familiar with the types of test questions they will see (drag and drop, multiple right answers, short responses, etc). We encourage you to have discussions with your ES about the test format. Students who understand what to expect when taking assessments have less test anxiety and higher performance success.

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@connectingwaters.org or call me at 800-808-9895 x252.

Social Studies Department News

Social Studies Spring Courses for 2020-21. Here is a list of the online Canvas classes that are available to students for 2nd semester.

6th Grade History, Tuesdays @ 2:15 p.m. M. Alcorn. CP#3019.2

7th Grade History, Tuesdays @ 1:30 p.m. S. Rickman. CP#3020.2

8th Grade History, Mondays @ 9:00 a.m. A. Ferreira. CP#3007.2

A-G World History B, Tuesdays @ 9:30 a.m. (CP#3003.2), 10:45 a.m. (CP#3002.2) A. Ferreira.

A-G US History B, Tuesdays @ 10:00 a.m. (3004.2agE); 11:30 a.m. (3005.2agE) S. Rickman

A-G American Government, Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m. (CP3009.2); 10:30 a.m.

(CP#3008.2) J. Orr.

A-G Economics, Mondays @ 2:15 p.m. M. Alcorn. CP#3000.2

A-G Psychology 1B, Wednesdays, 12:00 p.m. J. Orr. CP#3011ms.2

The resource centers also offer 8th-grade history classes through the Bridge Program.

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, though 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, although 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.

Dodge Ridge Trip

Dear CWCS Families,

This year has surely been one for the books!

Dodge Ridge does plan to be open this ski season, but their restrictions are such that it is almost impossible for large groups to participate. They will not have any of their lodges open to the public, so any gatherings need to be done in vehicles. And they will not allow leaders to pass out forms and tickets indoors.

Let's hope next year will be better.

