

Curriculum Department News

Happy New Year! Before we know it, spring will be arriving. With spring flowers comes curriculum planning for next year! Please start thinking about your curriculum orders for next year as fall can be a very busy time for both you and publishers. To help with your budgeting, talk with your ES about available curriculum at the Resource Center, check availability in Atrium, or stop by and browse the shelves. We have a lot of curriculum available. Check out our Recommended Curriculum Page (most of the curriculum on these pages will be available at the center in the fall). Go to our website Homepage and navigate to Departments>>Curriculum>>Recommended Curriculum and select your grade level.

Spotlight on Curriculum

Struggling with what types of books your student should read? Struggling to know what books are age appropriate? Be sure to check out our [101 Great Books for College Bound Students](#).

And our recommended book list for our younger [students in grades 6-8](#).

Need more? No problem! The state of California has put together a [searchable data base](#) for recommended reading for students starting in Pre-kindergarten through grade Twelve. It features a searchable database of books for children and teens which helps students, teachers, and families find books that entertain, inform, and explore new ideas and experiences. Studies show time and time again that students who read fluently at a young age have fewer struggles in all subjects. Early literacy is extremely important! At Connecting Waters Charter Schools, our goal is that all students are reading fluently by second grade.

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.

Developmental Classes

Hello Parents and ESs!

Developmental Reading and **Developmental Math** classes are amazing ways to get quality instruction for your student four days per week to help them close any skills gaps. Enrollment is always open, and we have space available for YOUR STUDENT! *These classes meet the Intensive Intervention requirement for Tier 3 students in both CW and CWEB schools.* Here are the placement tests that you can administer to your student(s) to determine which class(es) they would fit into. Please contact your ES for further assistance with administering the placement tests as well as for the class times.

All classes meet Monday through Thursday. The cost is only \$80 of instructional funding for the entire semester of classes, and the books/materials are complimentary (as

available in the learning centers)! Please note: these classes are not meant to be used as grade level core curriculum and should be used in addition to your standards-aligned grade level curriculum.

- [Corrective Reading Placement Test](#)
- [Decoding Placement Guidelines](#)
- [Developmental Math Placement Test](#)

Weekly Writing Contests in MyAccess

Announcing a Schoolwide Writing Contest!

Do you know that all of our students in grades 4-11 have a complimentary LCAP-funded MyAccess writing license? Yes, they do! Beginning in January, CW, CV, and CWEB schools will be hosting weekly writing contests using this awesome program! Winners of the weekly contests will receive gift card prizes and will be recognized in both the Parent Square and Newsletters.

The contest submission dates are:

- January: 1/14, 1/21, 1/28
- February: 2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25
- March: 3/3, 3/10, 3/24, 3/31
- April: 4/7, 4/14, 4/21, 4/28

Students - Please submit your essays by the above dates (all Tuesdays). Look for detailed contest guidelines the first week of school, January 2020 in the Parent Square!

The purpose of the contest is:

- To provide students with fun writing opportunities.
- To allow students to demonstrate their writing talents and receive awards.
- To provide opportunities to identify strengths and weaknesses.
- To improve student writing.

We hope you will participate! Please speak with your ES for usernames/passwords and for instructions about how to login to MyAccess.com.

English Department News

Come one – Come all!

If you love to discuss challenging topics, the Speech and Debate Club meets twice a month on Fridays in Moodle from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Joining is a perfect opportunity to get involved with your school and help improve college resumes! The

club is open to everyone in grades 7 - 12, and there are no prerequisites nor any qualifications needed to join.

The Speech and Debate Club helps students refine communication skills and prepares them for real-life situations such as presentations, speeches, debates, and more in a fun social environment. Friendly competitions such as mock trials, debates, and interviews are held alternately during meetings. To find the club, just logon to Moodle and look for the Misc. Tutoring and Clubs link. Stop by and check out this fun club! All are welcome!

The English Department wishes everyone a wonderful winter break!

Social Studies Department News

Exciting Changes in the Social Studies Department for 2nd Semester!

Welcome to our new A-G Economics teacher, Melissa Alcorn!

Time change: Mondays @ 11:00 a.m. CP# 3000.2

A-G American Government with Shanda Rickman

Day/Time change: Wednesdays @ 9:00 a.m. CP# 3008.2

8th Grade US History with Amanda Ferreira

Time change: Fridays @ 10:00 a.m. CP# 3007.2

There are still openings in A-G Psychology B with Judy Orr.

Wednesdays @ Noon CP#3011.2

New Class! World Cultures and Geography elective with Shanda Rickman

Wednesdays @ 10:15 a.m. 9 - 12th graders. CP# 3006.2

ESs can add students in SIS by January 31.

English Learners Department News

One of the amazing things about living in California is the diversity that surrounds us. Everywhere you go, you are greeted by a variety of cultures, ethnicities, and languages. This is so normal for us, that we quite often take it for granted. We know we will hear other languages, see other forms of dress, and have encounters with those whose traditions may be quite different from ours.

All public schools in California stress and encourage English language development. As teachers we study it, teach it, and assess it. We know that a child's best chance of academic success is to acquire proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking the English language.

While we want your child to excel in their acquisition of English, we also want to encourage you not to lose your home language! The best gift that you can give to your child is the gift of being truly bilingual. Studies show that students with strong literacy skills in their home language have a better chance of developing literacy in their second language.

A great way to foster this dual literacy in your children is reading! Read stories to your young children in both languages. Encourage your older children to read on their own in both their native language and in English. You may fear that your older child has already lost some of their native language. If this is the case, chat with your Education Specialist about adding a foreign language program, like Rosetta Stone, to your child's personalized education path. Biliteracy is coming to be seen as a prized possession here in California. The State Board of Education has even developed a seal that your child can earn and have affixed to their diploma. According to [CDE Website](#), "The State Seal of Biliteracy, marked by a gold seal on the diploma or transcript, recognizes high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing one or more languages in addition to English."

(If you would like more information click on the [State Seal of Biliteracy](#).)