

# Curriculum and Assessment Department News

The year is flying by! I am looking forward to spending some time with my family over the Thanksgiving break and hope you can find time to relax with your family and friends.

## **Spotlight on Curriculum**

### **Intensive Instructional Support Programs & Strategies**

Check out these CWCS recommended Intensive Instructional Support programs. If your student is struggling in grade level reading, comprehension or math, or if your student just needs extra support to supplement your curriculum, one of these programs might be appropriate. Talk to your ES about availability and appropriate placement. All programs are universally designed to target students who need extra support in foundational skills. All of the below programs provide the same content, but some users may have personal preference over the design of the program components.

When you are working with your student, especially students who may be struggling, be sure to apply these basic instructional practices that can be applied to any program:

- Use a strong core curriculum with explicit instruction that includes modeling, scaffolding, and prompting until students are able to apply a skill independently;
- Use a structured, research based intervention if needed;
- Use systematic instruction where skills presented build upon previous skills taught to connect with prior knowledge;
- Use Modeling frequently (for example, parent-teachers can use “think aloud” to model approaching and solving problems, including close reading strategies);
- Use and explain correct academic vocabulary (for example, sum, difference, product, quotient, punctuation, synonym, antonym, etc.);
- Use precise, simple, and replicable language when explaining directions and expectations;
- Use repeated opportunities to practice, build fluency (for both math and reading) and review (use both guided practice and independent practice);
- Allow for frequent opportunities to respond;
- Require specific error correction and feedback from the student so you understand his/her thinking process and level of mastery. Model the correct response for the student if needed and explain why the student’s answer was incorrect;
- Provide regular, timely and useful feedback to the student (while everyone loves to hear “good job,” this type of feedback isn’t really useful. Instead, consider being specific with what the student is improving on, and what will help the student improve his/her skills).

Talk to your ES or contact me if you would like more support in any of these instructional strategies.

## **Spotlight on Curriculum: Check Out These Great Free Websites History / Science**

[TIME For Kids](#) is a weekly classroom news magazine that motivates kids to read! Issues cover a wide range of real-world topics kids love to learn about. A powerful teaching tool, TIME For Kids builds reading and writing skills and is easily integrated across your curriculum, including social studies, science, and math. (K-6)

[Pete's Power Point Station](#) is an extensive collection of free PowerPoint presentations for teachers and free interactive activities for kids. The site features a wide and detailed assortment of presentations across all academic subjects.

You can also check out our Recommended Curriculum page for our top picks in grade level curriculum, concepts and skills review curriculum, and intensive support curriculum. From our home page, go to Departments>>Curriculum>> Recommended Curriculum.

If you are interested in setting up an appointment or conference call, please contact me with the time that works best for you. I am here to assist parents with any of their curriculum needs.

### **Parents Needed: Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) Parent Advisory Committee**

We are in need of parent volunteers to serve on the Local Control Advisory Committee. It is vital we fill these positions. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered so far! Local Control Advisory Committee's responsibility is to advise the Administration and the Board about supporting the CW Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) with resources for our students using our Supplemental Grant funding. Members will serve a 1 year term and will be selected to reflect the diversity of the community and the student body. **We still need Connecting Waters and Connecting Waters Central Valley Parent and Student Representatives.**

Members are asked to attend three (3) teleconference meetings (approximately one hour each). Meeting dates for 2019-20 are: **11/13/19, 2/12/20, and 5/6/20 from 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.** Your input is extremely important in helping CWCS schools with budget planning in regards to supporting our schoolwide goals.

To apply for this important position, please complete the following [survey](#). ESs who have children enrolled in a CWCS school are also encouraged to apply. Thank you, in advance, for supporting your school!

Visit our [LCAP webpage](#) for more information.

Questions? Contact Shoni Johnson, Curriculum & Assessment Director and LCAP/WASC Accountability Coordinator at [sjohnson@cwcharter.org](mailto:sjohnson@cwcharter.org).

# English Learner Department News

## What Data Teaches Us About Our Students

Data. It's a word that many find scary or boring. It makes some of us think of math and numbers. Some of us may even begin to tune out, deciding that this really has nothing to do with us.

As educators, we have learned the power of data. Data tells us where we are succeeding, where we can improve, and where we need to dive deeper to see where gaps may be.

As a school, we just received our ELPAC data. This is data specific to the English proficiency of our English Learners. The ELPAC measures English proficiency in four domains: Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Understanding. This specific assessment gives us a lot of data on our English Learners.

So what did we learn this year? We learned that our students are very strong in their oral skills. They can speak with confidence and accuracy. They can answer who, what, when, where and why questions about a scene given to them by the examiner. They can tell a story or say what they would do in a given situation. They can even summarize the main points of an academic presentation that is given to them.

Conversely, we have learned that our students are the weakest in writing. Writing is a skill that all children use in all areas of their academics. From English to math, writing is a vital skill. Some of the activities that students are asked to do on the ELPAC are to label pictures and objects (grade K), to write a response to an oral passage, and to write about a memorable experience. They may also be asked to write about information that they see in a graph or to write an essay in support of a topic, stating why they believe they are correct.

What can you, as the parent educator, do to help your child strengthen their writing skills? Write every day! All of the activities above are ones that you can do in everyday instruction with your child. You can have your child write about the steps that they took to solve their math problems. You can also have them describe their favorite toy, using descriptive words and phrases. Lastly, you can listen to audiobooks or podcasts, and then have them summarize, in writing, what they heard. Go over your child's writing with them, helping them to edit and add details. Last of all, use your ES as a resource. Your ES is there for you and wants to help!

## English Department News

Hello and Happy Fall from your English Department!

"I write to discover what I know."  
--Flannery O'Connor

Learning the fundamentals and beyond about writing increases literacy and encourages logical thinking. Regardless of the career path students choose – writing is valuable - because it teaches them to organize and to communicate their ideas clearly whether it be in everyday life or in workplace emails, letters, reports, and beyond.

However, "Writing is an art and a craft that needs to be developed through deliberate practice and study..." It is not easy; it is frequently difficult.

One fun way students can learn to write is by reading. Consider the sentences, the words, the punctuation, the organization of information, and the messages conveyed by experienced writers. "Reading allows students to capture information that is useful when they write."

They can discover what they know when they write and that is exciting. Encourage your students to read and also write - everyday.

## Online Managed Licenses (OMLs) News

The next OML enrollment window is now open! Talk with your ES to enroll your student in one of these wonderful online OML programs of Let's Go Learn (gr. TK-12 math, gr. 2-12 reading), iReady Math and Reading (gr. TK-12), Ascend Math (gr. 3-12), Study Island (gr. TK-12), ABC Mouse (gr. TK-age 6), Reading IQ (gr. TK-6), Adventure Academy (gr. 3-6), or ! The deadline to register is December 4, 2019. All programs will be activated and ready for use by December 18 – just in time for some extra work during the winter break!

## Developmental Classes

Hello Parents and ESs!

Developmental Reading and Developmental Math classes are an amazing way 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)!

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

- [Developmental Math Placement Test](#)

## **CV NWEA Pilot Update!**

Hello Fabulous CV Parents and ESs!

Here's quick update on the NWEA Pilot program!

- All students have completed the MAP Growth assessment in reading, math, and language arts!
- All learning pathways have been set up based on the MAP Growth results in both the Exact Path program and the Study Island program.
- If your student scored at the 25th percentile or below (Tier 3) on the MAP Growth assessment (please check with your ES), please have them login to use Exact Path for 30 minutes daily per subject that they scored Tier 3 in. This program is the intensive intervention component to help your student close skill gaps and begin to make great growth (in conjunction with their daily grade level core curriculum).
- If your student is not using a standards-aligned curriculum, regardless of their score on the MAP Growth assessment, please have them login to Study Island for some Concept and Skills review and practice for 15 minutes per subject daily.

Thank you for your participation and feedback on the program! It is extremely valuable to us! For additional questions, please contact your ES.

## **Social Studies Department News**

### **Moodle Classes**

We are excited to share that the online classes are well under way. Thank you for your patience as we settled into the routine for the new year. Please reach out to your instructor (or ES) with any questions. We are happy to help!

### **Tech Tools for Social Studies**

Parent-Educators sometimes look for ways to help students participate in a digital world, but the choices for digital engagement can be overwhelming. Check out these cool websites from KQED: [Favorite Tech Tools For Social Studies Classes](#).

## **PSAT News**

The most common reasons for taking the PSAT/NMSQT are: To receive feedback on your strengths and weaknesses on skills necessary for college study. You can then focus your preparation on those areas that could most benefit from additional study or practice.

PSAT 8/9 is November 7, 2019. We will be administering the tests for all students at Central Valley Resource Center and CWEB Resource Center.

8:30 a.m.—approximately 1:00 p.m. (For 8th & 9th graders.)

Ask your ES to sign up your student in SIS. Fee: \$25.

## **2020 Promotion/Graduation Information**

**Attention: 8th Graders and Seniors!**

Reminder: November 4, 2019 - Eighth grade promotion & Senior graduation participation information forms due!

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.

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

Jan. 17 - The topic of the speech provided by the school below

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

Feb. 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 @ [Academic Affairs](#) )

*Gowns are required to be completely zipped up during the graduation event & class photo.*

*Cap & Gowns cannot be decorated or altered in any way)*

Feb. 7 - Senior graduation announcements order forms due to Academic Affairs (They will only accept money orders for payment by mail or order online @ [Academic Affairs](#) )

Mar. 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 at 3:30 p.m. and 8th grade promotion at 7:00 p.m.

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

Students cannot wear leis, sashes, etc. unless they have been provided by the school. 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 p.m. on March 2, 2020, at 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, 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 [Mary Vinnedge](mailto:Mary.Vinnedge@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 [Mary Vinnedge](mailto:Mary.Vinnedge@cwcharter.org) .

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

Connecting Waters (CW): [connectingwaters.org](http://connectingwaters.org)

Connecting Waters East Bay (CWEB): [cweastbay.org](http://cweastbay.org)

Connecting Waters Central Valley (CWCV): [cwcentralvalley.org](http://cwcentralvalley.org)

Promotion/Graduation Newsletter November 2019 / MCV 10/10/19

## Outdoor Science School News

CWCS 5th & 6th graders will again attend Mount Hermon Outdoor Science School in the Santa Cruz Mountains. We will be attending the week of January 27-31, 2020. Cost will be \$275 and will come from 2<sup>nd</sup> semester student funding. This activity is not open to non-CWCS students. Parents are responsible for getting their students to and from camp and may not attend camp with their students. For more information about [the camp](#) (When viewing the site, note that we are **Not** attending homeschool camp.)

A CWCS ES will accompany the students. Counselors will be CWCS 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Recommendations for counselors must come through their ES.

Have your ES sign up your 5-6th grade student in the second semester Camp GEA no later than January 10, 2020.

Parents fill out the survey at [MH Camp Survey](#). Then go to [Parent/Student Manual](#) to access the required forms.

Parents will mail or deliver ALL forms, to be received by January 10, 2020, directly to ES Cathy Moretto, 772 Cypress Street, Manteca, CA 95336. Please do not send them to a Learning Center or Office. Required forms include:

1. Outdoor Science Student Contract
  2. Prescription Med Form (only if needed)
  3. **All Three Sides** of Health Emergency Form
  4. Parent/Guardian Waiver Form
  5. Copy of **Both Sides** of Medical Insurance Card
  6. 1 copy of [CWCS General Educational Activity \(GEA\) Permission Slip \(PDF\)](#)
- Questions? Contact ES Cathy Moretto at [cmoretto@cwcharter.org](mailto:cmoretto@cwcharter.org)

## Washington, D.C. Trip News

Last chance to sign up for the CWCS Washington, D.C. trip from April 13-17, 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 grade 6 and below must travel with a parent or a chaperone. The all-inclusive trip is just \$2,021 per student (\$2,321 for a double capacity adult) and includes everything from airfare and travel expenses, hotel accommodations, breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and all entrance fees. This incredible opportunity expires on November 30, so please register today! To enroll in the trip, go to [EF Explore America's](#) or call EF Explore America's Traveler Support at 888-333-9756 and enroll with our tour code: 2207540CF (The 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.

## **2020 Dodge Ridge Ski Trips News**

Save the dates for a fun-filled time on the slopes. Snowboarding and Skiing will be available. Lift tickets, lessons and equipment will be provided through student funding. Parents will be providing the transportation and meal for the day.

January 24 and February 28

Watch for Information in Parent Square for our upcoming ski trips, which will include pricing, paperwork requirements, and participation information. Parent Square post will be in November.

If you have any questions, you may email Daneen Campa @ [dcampa@cwcharter.org](mailto:dcampa@cwcharter.org)