

CONNECTING WATERS CHARTER SCHOOL

~ OCTOBER 2005 ~



What's New with CWCS?

Sherri Nelson, Executive Director

Hopefully, the school year has started out great for you and your student.

Some of you may have noticed that there are some changes this year with CWCS. These changes did not happen overnight and are the direct result of our school improvement process discussed last year. Our Education Specialists, staff, and parent/student groups

spent at least a year looking at our school's performance. Each group analyzed testing and work sample data. The intense evaluation focused on the areas of:

1. curriculum and instruction
2. assessment and accountability

After, looking at STAR the data, we determined that it was imperative that we focus on the following areas in order to improve our school. These areas have been put in the form of goals that are clearly stated in our WASC action plan. The plan can be viewed by going to the following location

<http://www.connectingwaters.org/accreditation/ssdoc/FOLActionPlan.pdf>. The entire report can be found at our website under 'Accreditation'.

Goal 1: Improve Student Achievement in Reading and Writing

Goal 2: Improve Student Achievement in Mathematics

Goal 3: Increase STAR student participation rate

Our action plan outlines exactly how we will accomplish these goals. Last spring, we achieved our goal of having 95% of our students participate in STAR! We are pleased and know that this trend will continue. In fact, participation is so important that we have written it into our 'Assessment Confirmation' and 'Student Agreement' that you sign each semester prior to enrolling. Attending and doing as well as possible on the STAR exam is vital to the continuance of our school. Thank you for your support in reaching this goal!

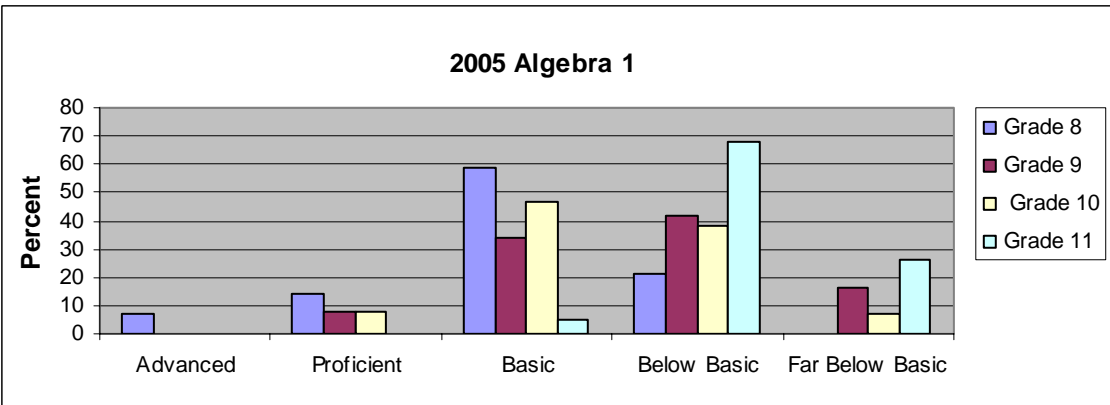
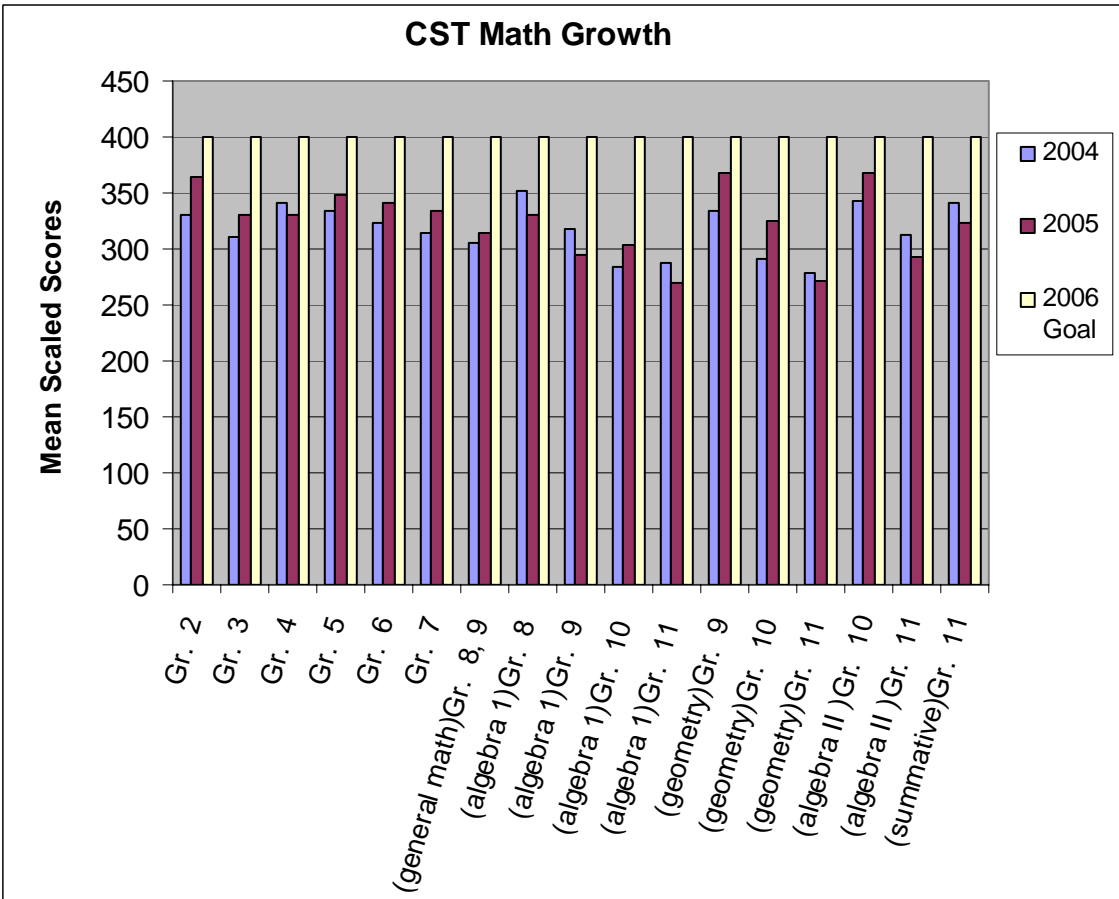
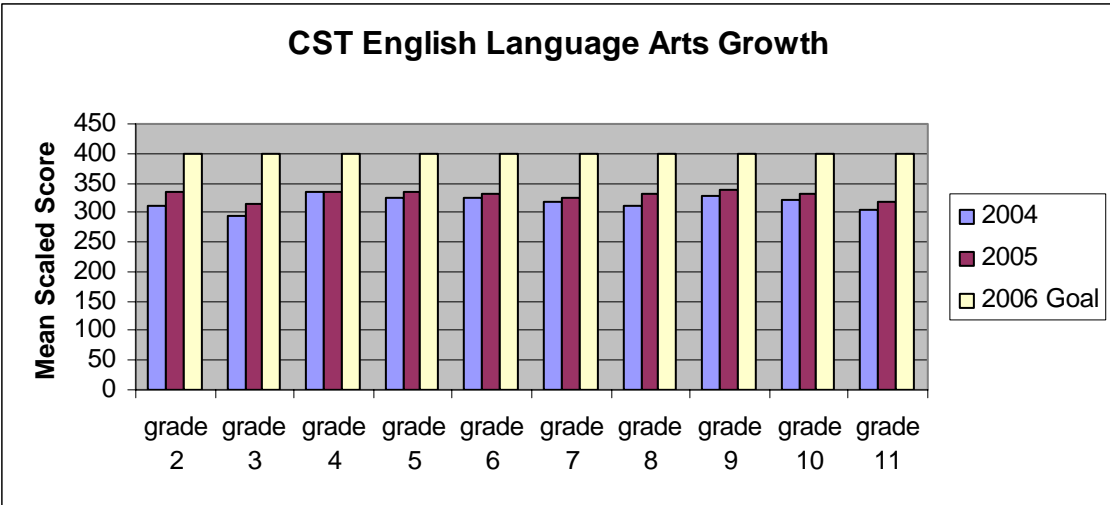
Studies show that student achievement increases when data is used to determine instruction; so this is what we are focusing on this year. We are examining STAR and Scantron (our on line pre/post test assessment tool) data to determine areas of strengths and weaknesses of your students. The Scantron results will let you and your ES see more precisely the growth areas that need to be addressed. This information helps reduce the guess work and frustration in learning and teaching.

In the area of curriculum, we are focusing on the standards yet still recognizing that parents can choose their student's curriculum. Each year your ES provides you with a list of the California standards for your student's grade level. We realize that every standard in each subject will not be able to be covered in a single year, but we want to make sure that we cover all those that will be on the STAR test in the spring. Last spring, many parents had expressed that they would have felt more comfortable with testing if they had known on what their student would be tested. We have heard your request and are answering it through this change.

We anticipate these changes will improve student achievement and fulfill our goals.

We are preparing to renew our charter this spring. Our overall goal is to continue to provide quality k-12 education with parental choice and involvement while maintaining high standards in student achievement.

2003/2004 & 2004/2005 STAR CST RESULTS



St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
MATH * A * THON
Sponsored by Connecting Waters Charter School

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is internationally recognized for its pioneering work in finding cures and saving children with cancer and other catastrophic diseases. Founded by the late entertainer Danny Thomas and based in Memphis, Tenn., St. Jude freely shares its discoveries with scientific and medical communities around the world. No family ever pays for treatments not covered by insurance, and families without insurance are never asked to pay. St. Jude is financially supported by ALSAC, its fund-raising organization.

It's as Easy as 1-2-3!

1. Students will pick up a Permission/Registration form and collection envelope from one of the CWCS Learning Centers or the CWCS Waterford office. If necessary, the Permission/Registration forms can be mailed to you upon request. To have a form mailed to you, call the CWCS Waterford office at 209-874-1119 Ext 6. Permission Registration forms will need to be returned to the CWCS Learning Center or CWCS Waterford office by October 4th. Then the participants will need to find sponsors who will pledge .03, .05, or .10 cents per math problem. There are approximately 200 problems.
2. When your math funbook or CD arrives, complete all the fun problems and puzzles within seven days. Don't forget the bonus problems on www.mathathon.org. Funbooks and CD will be available at the CWCS Learning Centers and CWCS Waterford office on October 25th.

Collect your pledges from your sponsors and return them to the CWCS Learning Center or CWCS Waterford office no later November 8th.

Students collecting \$35 or more will receive a t-shirt, certificate and a free pass to Six Flags Theme Parks. Those collecting \$75 will receive a St. Jude sports bag, t-shirt, certificate and free pass to Six Flags Theme Parks. The student who raises the most money over \$125 will receive their choice of a digital camera, a Plug 'n' Play controller with 50 video games or a MP3 player. Everyone who turns in money will receive a certificate.

Please visit the Math*A*Thon web site at www.mathathon.org. Here you can see sample questions, and your students can play games, download a Math*A*Thon screensaver and send e-cards. There is also a special section for parents to learn more about the program and the hospital.

Connecting Waters Charter School
219 N. Reinway Ave.
Waterford, CA 95386
209-874-1119 Ext. 6

Ceres/Modesto Learning Center
2600 Mitchell Rd. Ste. G
Ceres, CA 95307
209-541-1531

Manteca Learning Center
955 W. Center St. Ste. 9
Manteca, CA 95337
209-239-7309

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT INFORMATION – October 2005

Greetings from the Guidance Department! We are here to help you determine your future academic and career goals. Contact information:

Mary Halter

1-800-808-9895 ext.4 then 2

mhalter@connectingwaters.org

**PSAT test date:
Wednesday October 12, 2005
or
Saturday October 15, 2005**

Register by calling your local high school as soon as possible to test on one of these dates. **Please remember to use our school code when taking the test:**

053706

**To register at Waterford High School for the October 12 test date
call Mrs. Chavez at 209-874-9060**

PLAN (pre-ACT) test for 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th graders!!!!

Why take the PLAN? It's great preparation for the ACT – it covers the same subjects! It gives an estimated ACT score! It helps you know what high school courses you should be taking! It helps you identify careers that match your interests! (You can find more information about the PLAN test at www.act.org)

WHEN: Wednesday November 2, 2005 9:30am – 12:30pm

WHERE: Manteca Learning Center

FEE (from instructional funds) = \$10

Please have your ES sign you up in webfiles (GEA #9743)

College Fair Nights for High School Students

Delta College	October 18, 2005	6pm
Modesto Junior College	October 19, 2005	6pm
Columbia College	October 21, 2005	10am

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans provides **\$2,500** scholarships to **seniors** who have exhibited integrity and perseverance in overcoming personal adversity and who aspire to pursue higher education. **Two hundred** scholarships will be awarded in California. Eligibility requirements include: must plan to enroll full-time in Fall 2006 at a 2 or 4-year college, have a strong commitment to pursuing a bachelor's degree, have demonstrated financial need, a record of involvement in co-curricular and community activities, minimum 2.0 GPA, must be a U.S. citizen or in the process of becoming a U.S. citizen. Apply online or download a paper application at: <https://www.horatioalger.com/scholarships/apply.cfm> **Deadline to submit your application is October 15.**

The **Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation** awards **250 merit-based** scholarships to high school **seniors** each year. Fifty of these awards are four-year \$20,000 scholarships, while 200 are designated as four-year \$4,000 scholarships. They can be used at any accredited U.S. college or university. Eligibility requirements include: 3.0 minimum GPA, plans to pursue a degree at a 4-year college after high school graduation. Apply online no later than **October 31**. www.coca-colascholars.org Family income is NOT considered in the selection process.

Target All-Around Scholarship Program - For students whose hard work goes beyond their textbooks. By volunteering in their communities these students remind us that, even with busy schedules, there's always time to help others. Target will award one \$25,000 scholarship to a national winner and over **six hundred \$1,000** scholarships to **seniors** and current college students. Recipients will be selected based on: number of community volunteer service hours, volunteer leadership awards and honors, volunteer supervisor recommendation, minimum 2.0 GPA and essay. Applicants must enroll full-time in fall 2006 at a 2 or 4-year college, university or vocational-technical school. **NO financial information is required.** Apply online by **November 1** at: http://target.com/target_group/community_giving/scholarships.jhtml .

SAE Engineering Scholarships: In recognition of the important contributions made by engineers in improving the quality of our lives, particularly those related to mobility, SAE is proud to be able to offer a number of scholarships to qualified **seniors** who are interested in the **study of engineering and related sciences**. These scholarships are made possible by the support of the corporate and academic community. The program includes undesignated and university sponsored scholarships. SAT or ACT scores are required. Postmark applications by **December 1**. There is a \$5.00 processing fee. You can find eligibility requirements and complete the application on your computer by using the Word format at: <http://students.sae.org/awdscholar/scholarships/engscholar/>

The **Frank H. Buck Scholarship** is available to **seniors** and current college students who reside in one of six counties, including San Joaquin. Applicants must demonstrate strength of character, enterprise and personal initiative to be eligible. Special consideration will be given to those students who are unique, with a strong interest in school or community activities, and those who exhibit an unusual capacity for creative problem solving. Financial need may be considered, but is not a requirement to win one of these prestigious scholarships. **The Buck Foundation Scholarships pay for ALL college expenses, and may include funding for postgraduate education.** Fourteen students were named Buck Scholars in 2005. You must **request an application** directly from the Buck Scholarship Foundation between **September 1 and November 9**. Complete an online application request form at: <http://www.buckfoundation.org> , call (707) 446-7700, or download an application from their website. Applications must be postmarked by **December 3**.

Gates Millennium Scholars Program provides substantial scholarship awards to exceptional high school **seniors** for study at the college of their choice. Funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, it was established in 1999 to provide outstanding African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American, and Hispanic American students with an opportunity to complete an undergraduate college education in all discipline areas. Eligible applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale, demonstrated leadership skills, and significant financial need. More information and applications can be found at www.gmsp.org . **Deadline is January 14, 2006.**

Christermon Foundation Beverage Industry College Scholarship Program has awarded 3.1 million dollars in college scholarships since 1987. Scholarships ranging from **\$1,500 to \$5,000** will be awarded to **seniors** whose parent, grandparent or legal guardian currently hold full time employment with, or who are owners of, a company holding a valid **California liquor, beer or wine license**. This includes **restaurants, hotels, retail & wholesale grocery establishments, airlines, breweries, wineries, distributors, etc.** Must be planning to attend a 4-year college in Fall 2006, show evidence of community service and a strong academic record. Apply online at: www.christermon.com . **Deadline to submit application is February 1, 2006.**

High School Seniors – Class of 2006

- ✓ Apply for CSU at www.csumentor.edu by November 30th!
- ✓ Apply for UC at www.ucop.edu/pathways by November 30th!
- ✓ Contact private/independent colleges for application deadlines, admissions materials, and financial aid and scholarship information.
- ✓ Contact occupational career schools for information.
- ✓ Remember to mark your calendar - FAFSA
www.fafsa.ed.gov and CalGrant (GPA Verification form which must be requested from the Guidance Dept at CWCS) application period is Jan. 1st through March 1st

College Entrance Exam Test Dates and Deadlines

Test	Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
SAT I & II	Nov 5	Sept 30	Oct 12
SAT I & II	Dec 3	Oct 28	Nov 9
ACT	Dec 10	Nov 4	Nov 17
SAT I & II	Jan 28	Dec 22	Jan 4

To Register:

SAT – www.collegeboard.com

ACT – www.act.org

School Code : 053706

Need help preparing for ACT, SAT and ASVAB exams? The Lodi Public Library subscribes to a test preparation service that is free to current Lodi Library cardholders. Many practice exams and skill-building exercises are offered. To access this FREE service go to: <http://www.lodi.gov/library/index.htm> Click on "learnatest.com" symbol click on the link Register as a new user (user id is your current Lodi library card number) Practice exams include: SAT, ACT, ASVAB, Basic Skills, AP, EMT, Cosmetology, Firefighter, GED, etc.

Education Pays - Find out the value of an education at: <http://www.educationpays.org> . Charts show various career paths and your earning potential based on training and education.

Did you know that nearly 50% of the fastest growing jobs in the next ten years will be in the health and medical sciences? (According to the U.S. Department of Labor.) In response to this growing demand, the National Institutes of Health has created a new interactive web site, *Life Works*, to allow students and parents to explore over 100 career possibilities. Check out this free career information resource at: www.science.education.nih.gov/LifeWorks .

Interested in a career in nursing? Delta College will hold informational sessions on Nursing and Health Care Careers as follows:
October 21, 1:00 - 2:30 / November 18, 2:00 - 3:30. Find additional information at www.deltacollege.edu/div/fchs or call 954-5454. All sessions will be held in Locke 118.

Choosing a Career is a BIG Deal - Some who don't pursue college right away start looking for unskilled work right out of high school, but find that most of today's good jobs require education, skills, and training beyond a high school level. Do you want a good-paying job with a future? Enter the field of heavy equipment, industrial equipment, diesel engine technology or equipment rental and work for Holt of California. Work on some of the biggest, hardest-working, most technologically advanced pieces of equipment in the world. Become someone who is:

- Highly skilled and technically trained
- In demand - readily employable in this expanding industry
- On track for future advancement and promotion
- Well paid – great money and benefits
- A respected professional in a respected field

Many people choose a four-year college, but maybe you have decided that's not for you for a variety of reasons. Learn about this career opportunity at:

http://holtca.cat.com/dsf/article/1,,7_1_24230_D10024738,00.html

Careers that don't require college: www.electrifyingcareers.com www.gettech.org
www.armedforcescareers.com www.constructmyfuture.com

Graduation News



Eighth grade graduation will be Tuesday, May 16, 2005 at the Waterford HS gym.

Senior graduation will also be held at the Waterford HS gym on Thursday, May 18, 2005.

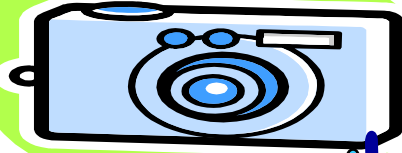
If your student is listed as 8th or 12th grade in our database then you should have received a participation form in the mail.

Use this form to sign your student up for the graduation(s). If you have not received the form or have an 11th grader graduating this year, you may either obtain them from your ES or by going to

<http://www.ieminc.org/handbook/06agendas/septag06/cw8thgrad.pdf> for eighth grade and

<http://www.ieminc.org/handbook/06agendas/septag06/cwsrgrad.pdf> for the senior participation information.

Reminder



Picture Retake Dates!

Leonard's Photography will be taking retake pictures for Student IDs and the Yearbook at the *Ceres Learning Center* on Wednesday, October 26th, from 10:00 am until 12:00 pm, and at the *Manteca Learning Center* on Thursday, October 27th, from 10:00 am until 12:00 pm.

Please call the learning centers to set up an appointment. The cost is \$5.00 for a photo ID only, picture packages start at \$18.00, and full color yearbooks are \$25.00.

October 27th is the deadline for ordering yearbook.





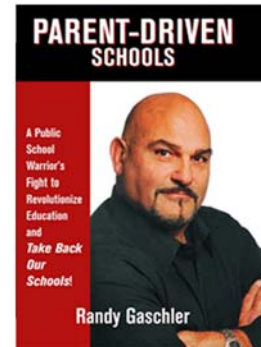
Like to Read?

I am organizing a Literature club for CWCS students in junior high and high school. We will meet once a month and discuss a piece of classic literature that we have read the previous month. At each meeting we will announce next month's book. The club will meet in or near Turlock at the end of each month. If you think you would like to join us, please e-mail Ingrid Kiehl at nuneskiehl@yahoo.com. In your e-mail, please include your name, grade, and whether you would prefer to meet on Thursday or Friday. I hope you'll join us!

PARENT DRIVEN SCHOOLS

A Charter School Warrior's Fight to Revolutionize Public Education.

If your child's school is run by politicians, and bureaucrats determined what subjects were being taught and parents have no say at all, would you demand changes? If you answered "yes" then this book was written for you.



I wrote Parent Driven Schools because as a parent, coach, and a teacher for most of my adult life, I am convinced that America's system of public education is flawed. I firmly believe that we - you and me and all the other parents and caring people in this country - have the power to fix it. We can change public education. The power to do that lies with us; in our hands, and in our hearts.

Order your copy today at www.parentdrivenschools.com

REQUIREMENTS FOR 1ST GRADERS

Child Health and Disability Prevention Program (CHDP) is a preventative health program serving California's children and youth. CHDP makes early health care available to eligible children, not only children with obvious health problems, but also to children who seem well. The CHDP program works with the Department of Education in administering and monitoring this requirement and assists low-income children to meet the requirement by providing them with state-paid health assessments.

CHDP School Requirements:

By law, all children entering the first grade are required to have either a certificate of a CHDP health examination or a waiver on file at the school in which they enroll. School health examinations must be completed within 18 months prior to or 90 days after 1st grade entry unless the parent or guardian signs a waiver stating they do not want, or they are unable to obtain an examination for their child.

If you have questions regarding the CHDP requirements please call Cary Sharp in Student Records at 800-979-4436.

THE CERES LEARNING CENTER

2600 Mitchell Road Suite G, Ceres, CA 95307

Phone: 209-541-1531

Marc Fiedor, Program Coordinator



The school year is well on its way and the Learning Center is in full operation. Check the updated class schedule as there have been some changes. The following classes had to be canceled due to a lack of enrollments:

Etiquette, Geography, US History, Economics, World Government & Choir.

We want to have classes available in any subject area that there is a need. Obviously, these classes were not in demand this year. Please help us provide the classes that are needed. Sign up for classes as soon as possible when they are listed. In addition, if there is a class that you would like to see at the center, please call the center or come in with your suggestion, we appreciate the input.

New Center Hours: Beginning on September 26, 2005 the center will be open from 9-4 Monday through Friday. We have wanted constant hours from the beginning but due to unavoidable circumstances, we were unable to do so until now. Please forgive any inconvenience this may have caused.

New at the Center: We received new CD versions of foreign languages: French, Spanish, German, English (for the Spanish speaking community)

Reminder: The Center will be closed Tuesday September 27, 2005 for the all ES meeting.

Some classes will still be held at the center but the clerks will not be working. Check with your instructor if this concerns your class. The Center will be closed to all other use that day. Thank you.

<u>Time</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u># of Classes</u>	<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Course #</u>	<u>Approx. Price</u>
MONDAY							
9:30-10:30	Guitar Lessons	K-12	8/29/05	12	J. Gray	TBA	TBA
10:00-11:00	Life Skills 101	9-12 th	8/29/05	16	B. Harris	9631	\$134
11:00-12:00	Cool Crafts	K-6	8/29/05	16	B. Harris	9628	\$134
12:00-1:00	Hands on Science	K-6	8/29/05	16	B. Harris	9629	\$134
1:00-2:00	Etiquette	7-12 th	8/29/05	16	B. Harris	9630	\$134
MONDAY & WEDNESDAY							
9:00-11:00	Geometry	9 th -12 th	9/1/2005	12	D. Kutz	9745	\$250.55
TUESDAY							
10:00-11:30	Drawing 2	4-12 th	8/29/05	12	J. Gray	9646	\$85
1:00-2:00	JR/HS Writing	7-12 th	8/30/05	16	T. Matranga	9695	\$146
2:00-3:00	Choir	K-12 th	8/23/05	16	J. Hepworth	9680	TBA
2:00-3:00	Advanced Writing	9-12 th	8/30/05	16	T. Matranga	9696	\$146
TUESDAY & THURSDAY							
9:00-10:30	Pre Algebra	Jr. High	8/30/05	16	D. Kutz	9651	\$256
10:30-12:00	Algebra A-G	9-12 th	8/30/05	16	D. Kutz	9652	\$256
11:00-12:00	Spanish 1	9-12 th	8/30/05	35	B. Monroe	9637	\$256
12:00-1:00	Spanish 2	9-12 th	8/30/05	35	B. Monroe	9636	\$230
WEDNESDAY							
1:00-3:00	Guitar	8yrs up	8/29/05	12	J.Gray	TBA	TBA
THURSDAY							
9:00-3:00	Piano Lessons	K-12 th	TBA	16	C. Pierson	TBA	\$225
10:00-11:00	Color 1	K-12 th	9/1/05	12	J. Gray	9647	\$85
FRIDAY							
9:00-10:00	Beg. Drawing 1	K-12 th	9/2/05	12	J. Gray	9646	\$85
12:15-2:15	Algebra 1	9-12 th	9/2/05	16	J. Pelezynski	9649	\$224
2:30-4:30	Algebra 2	9-12 th	9/2/05	16	J. Pelezynski	9650	\$225
2:00-3:30	Guitar	K-12 th	9/2/05	12	J. Gray	TBA	TBA
3:30-4:30	Beg. Drawing 1	K-12 th	9/2/05	12	J. Gray	9759	\$85

Ceres Learning Center ~ Prospective Fall '06



Manteca Learning Center News

Alison Lull & Shanda Rickman, Site Program Coordinators
Shalimar Eldridge & Alysia Ayala, Site Clerks
955 W. Center St., Ste. 9
209-239-7306 FAX 209-823-7439
Hours M-F 9:00-4:00

New Guitar Vendor: David Quilici, a graduate of CWCS, is a newly approved vendor. David will be available for individual 30 minute guitar lessons on Fridays between 1-4. (The last session would begin at 3:30). Have your ES initiate an individual contract program after they have contacted David to arrange the lesson time. Education Specialists may contact the Manteca Learning Center for more contact information.

Computer Lab & Scantron Testing: The computer lab has six computers available for student use during regular business hours for the Ed Performance Scantron online pre-test which is required of all 2nd-12th grade students. Please have your ES sign-up your student(s) as soon as possible. Your ES should be present unless testing is scheduled for a date when the test proctor will be at the Site. Of course, computers may also be used for school related work, but the Scantron online pre-test is our top priority this month.

Materials for Checkout: The site still has many returned books and some Starline Press state aligned curriculum. Visit the Learning Center before ordering to see if we have what you need. Thank you to all the ES's who have returned materials and placed them on the shelves! It makes it easier to keep the center looking neat!

Scholastic Book Orders: The site clerks are assisting families who want to use personal funds to order books from the Scholastic Book Clubs. The latest order forms are at the Manteca Learning Center. Materials are available for all grade levels. Payment is due when order forms are completed. This is an inexpensive way to build your personal library. Free books earned through book sales go to the Learning Center library for everyone to enjoy.

City of Manteca Parks & Rec. is an approved vendor. Access their schedule on the internet at www.ci.manteca.ca.us/parks or pick up a schedule at 252 Magnolia Lane, Manteca or at the Manteca Learning Center. To register have your ES complete a purchase order request at least a week before class starts. Parents must bring a copy of the purchase order when the parent signs up the student at the Parks & Rec. office. Please note that your student is not fully signed up until the parent has completed the Parks & Rec. form.

Fall Classes

Some of the following classes are currently full. Please have your ES contact the instructor to see if additional spaces are available.

- **9679 Choir**, Grades 5-12, Instructor: Jack Hepworth, Wed. 11-12, \$66.69 ES: see course notes under search courses/activities for text info. Students will have modeled for them & will rehearse choral singing, sight singing, & music theory.
- **9684 Intro. to Spanish**, Gr. 3-7, Instructor: Roberto Gomez, Thurs. 9:30-10:30, \$87.25
- **9685 Spanish 1 Standards**, Gr. 8-12, Instructor: Roberto Gomez Thurs. 11-12, \$87.25 Note: Class will cover listening, speaking, & cultural standards. For complete HS Standards credit, student must complete additional Spanish course work at home. ES: See course notes under search courses/activities for text info.
- **Pre-Algebra**, Gr. 7-10, Instructor: Jack Kaiser, Mon. 12:30-2:30
- **Algebra I**, Gr. 9-10, Instructor: Jack Kaiser, Mon. 9:30-11:30, \$144
- **9697 Writing**, Instructor: Teresa Matranga, Tues. (currently full)
- **9696 Advanced Writing**, Instructor: Teresa Matranga Tues. (currently full)
- **Drop-In Math Tutoring**, Instructor: D. Kutz, Fridays 9-11. There is no charge for this tutoring. Please bring your books or math assignments, paper, and pencil.

Welcome!

We would like to welcome **Dorinda Pendergrass** as our new school clerk. She works in the Waterford office.

Dorinda is in her 2nd year at MJC and will be transferring to CSU Stanislaus next year. She has been married for four years and her hobbies include reading, writing, and photography. She has been a wonderful addition to our staff!



The Yearbook wants YOU!!

Hi, my name is Alicia Barlow and I'm your new student yearbook editor. I'm so excited to be involved with making the 2005/2006 yearbook the best ever. But I need **YOUR** help!

Leonard's Photography of Manteca has a wonderful program for the layout of the yearbook, but it will not help without **YOUR** contributions of pictures. So I need from you creative close-ups, fantastic photos, and spectacular shots of this year in retrospect. We also could use your favorite short poems, mottos, or quips.

By adding advertisement pages to the back of the yearbook, we can afford a **HARD** cover and 12 additional activity pages. So, if you know of any businesses that would like to advertise in our yearbook, have them call me @ 209-878-3561.

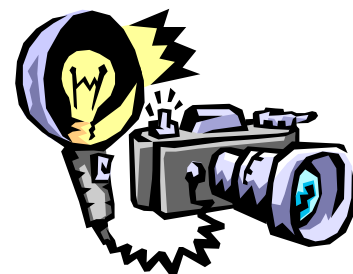
SO, don't forget to take your camera, preferably digital, on **EVERY** school trip or outing. Also take pictures of you and your hobbies, how your homeschool looks, or just **YOU!** If you did not have your school picture taken there are still make-up days in October. Remember this yearbook is for **YOU**, so we need to see **YOU** in it!!

Send these images by e-mail to me at sambarlow4@juno.com or by snailmail to Leonard's Photography, 137 N. Maple Ave., Manteca, CA. Make sure you send your pictures as soon as possible so we can meet our deadlines and get this yearbook out to each of you on time (deadlines to be announced).

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or ideas. We are hoping to make this yearbook a treasure that you will enjoy sharing for years to come.

Sincerely,

Alicia Barlow





Building Stronger, More Confident Writers

The Write Hand is a new vendor with CWCS that offers personalized writing instruction for your child in the comfort of your own home! Our innovative distance learning format allows students to learn anytime, day or night, from anywhere you can connect to the internet!

Professional educators (writing coaches) will work with your child to give them the tools they need to express themselves, improve their grades, raise their test scores, build their self-esteem, and reach their full potential. Our coaches will provide precise feedback each day as they help students to organize thoughts, develop drafts, make revisions, proofread, and publish their work. They have the knowledge, experience, and motivational abilities to help students reach their goals.

Because all writers are unique, one formula for writing doesn't work for all students at the same time. At *The Write Hand*, our coaches individualize their writing instruction to meet the needs of your student. They are flexible enough to combine various approaches to provide the best writing opportunities for your student.

7 Writing Traits

Traits are qualities or characteristics that define strong performance in writing. Coaches at *The Write Hand* teach the traits of writing and help students apply the traits to their own work. Students also learn to recognize the traits in their own work and learn to assess their work for strengths and weaknesses.

Ideas * Organization * Voice * Word Choice *

Sentence Fluency * Conventions * Presentation

The Write Hand offers two programs:

Better Writing: Our *Better Writing Program* is designed for students who are capable of writing a paragraph, usually 3rd -12th Graders. Students have the opportunity to write using a variety of writing genres: autobiographical and biographical essays, journal writing, informational writing, how-to-writing, summaries, articles, business letters, persuasive essays, letters, report writing, and story writing.

CAHSEE Writing Prep: This is a special program designed to prepare students for the writing portion of the CAHSEE exam. Students will work with their coach daily through the use of sample essays, and are trained in writing a strong response with a passing score.

Testimonies

"The Write Hand is a fantastic program that taught my daughter to love writing! It was convenient and affordable! I highly recommend this program!"

Brenda M, CWCS Parent

"My coach taught me how to respond to the writing prompt and organize my thoughts and ideas. We worked through several practice essays together and I ended up passing the CAHSEE on the first try!" Lisa E., CWCS Student

Students can sign up for a program that will last one month, one semester, or even an entire academic school year! For more about our program, go to:

www.thewritehand.org

To register your student, have your ES complete a Purchase Order, send an email to director@thewritehand.org with the PO number, and your program can begin as early as the next business day!

Character Building Assemblies For Students K-8

To sign up call the **Ceres Learning Center** at (209) 541-1531. The assemblies are free and do not require instructional funding.

Refreshments will be provided!

Do you want your child to learn about qualities such as responsibility, patience, initiative, self-control, punctuality, resourcefulness, discretion, creativity, and tolerance? Then you don't want to miss the wonderful opportunity to help teach your child these qualities at home.

Our assemblies will be every third Wednesday of the month.

The next assembly is Wednesday, October 19, from 3:00pm until 4:00pm, at **The Ceres Learning Center** - 2600 Mitchell Rd, Ceres.



Children will receive prizes from treasure chest!

Skits will be presented by our character coaches, songs, memory citations and an animal story!