

## **PROGRESS REPORT: CHAPTER III**

Since the last WASC Visitation, Connecting Waters Charter School has developed centralized intake, core departments, intervention plans, and online courses. In addition, we have aligned our ESLRs to the state standards in our database and hired a curriculum director. Joined with our previous efforts, these actions have helped to facilitate progress toward our school's goals.

The parent council is given quarterly department reports of the progress toward attainment of our goals. The ESs and staff review progress as they receive updates through professional development and review of the action plan. The leadership team also meets monthly to review school progress.

The greatest impact of the program developments on student achievement is this: parents are more aware of the importance of the attainment of the standards and are working with the ESs to help their students towards mastery. Through the efforts of our curriculum director and centralized intake we have been able to introduce user friendly, standards based curriculum. The process of centralized intake ensures that all families are provided with the same information during enrollment. Our curriculum director developed Holt study guides which facilitate student use of the Holt curriculum. We have developed online classes to provide access to highly qualified teachers to students who live outside of the cities of our learning centers.

Due to directives in AB1994, we were no longer able to operate the Manteca Learning Center or any other learning center outside of Stanislaus County (Connecting Waters Charter School's sponsoring county) beginning July 1, 2006. This law states that a charter school may only operate learning centers outside of the sponsoring county if the majority of its students reside in the sponsoring county. The majority of our students reside in San Joaquin County. We were able to open the Modesto Learning Center, a spacious facility, on the north end of town to accommodate our San Joaquin families. We also moved the Ceres Learning Center to another in Ceres as the previous facility was quite small. Each center provides core and elective courses and a small computer lab to use as needed. The course offerings have increased at each learning center.

The administration, staff, parents, and students are aware of the challenges in education and working toward the common goal of educating our students.

### **GOAL 1: IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN READING AND WRITING**

- Use of Scantron assessment for all students grades 2-12 to assess reading ability. Beginning in 2011, students in grades 4-11, and 12 for students not passing the CAHSEE.
- Developed Personalized Learning Improvement Plan (PLIP) for students needing to improve reading and writing skills
- Developed and implemented intensive learning plan for students not passing the CAHSEE
- Formed the English department

- Developed standards aligned study guides for Holt curriculum grades 6-12  
Provided standards aligned curriculum for new students through Intake
- Updated writing prompt booklet; all students complete four writing prompts each year
- Provided writing workshops for teachers, parents, and students
- Developed online courses for middle school students using Elluminate
- Developed online courses for high school students using Elluminate
- Improved communication through our monthly leadership meetings, phone tree system, centralized intake, newsletters, listserves, parent trainings and support calls to parents
- Annual parent/student workshop trainings
- Personalized learning team (PLT)
- Developmental reading classes
- Parent Certification program
- Formed the data team to disaggregate local and state assessment data to improve instructional practices
- Assessment of K-12 students needing assistance
- Provided test prep materials for students grade 2-11
- Provided all teachers with WRAT kit to assess students' reading levels
- Updated the writing prompts for grades 6, 9, & 10 as a pilot for 2010-11 school year

## **GOAL 2: IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN MATHEMATICS**

- Use of Scantron assessment on all students grades 4-12 to assess math level
- Provided more math course offerings through the learning center and online options
- Provided more math tutors, an approved tutor list, and drop-in tutoring
- Developed Personalized Learning Plan for students needing to improve math skills
- Formed the math department
- Developed and implemented intensive learning plans for students not passing the CAHSEE
- Gave learning styles inventory to all students to assess learning style (and match with math curriculum)
- Provided standards aligned curriculum for new students through Intake
- Online courses for grades 4 through 12
- Provided the Houghton Mifflin math pilot for grades K-5
- Provided math placement for middle school students and new high school students
- Annual parent/student workshop trainings
- Parent Certification program
- Formed the data team to disaggregate local and state assessment data to improve instructional practices
- Developed remedial courses for elementary and middle school students
- Developed algebra readiness course

### **GOAL 3: INCREASE STAR STUDENT PARTICIPATION RATE**

- 02/03- 85 percent participation
- 04/05- 95 percent participation
- 05/06- 97 percent participation
- 06/07- 99 percent participation
- 07/08- 100 percent participation
- 08/09- 99.2 percent participation
- 09/10- 99.7 percent participation
- Implemented the assessment confirmation form
- Provided transportation to test sites
- Mailed letters to remind parents of test dates/locations
- ES follow up and communication with families to make sure they know where and when testing will be
- Increased number of STAR test sites
- Immediate communication with parents on testing days for no-shows
- Purchased test prep materials for all students
- Used Scantron as pre/post test and post test given prior to STAR exam

### **GOAL 4: ASSESS POST GRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS**

- Sent out graduation surveys to '03, '04, '05, '09, and 2010 graduates
- Created and included an exit survey for graduates as part of the graduation packet checklist