

Curriculum & Assessment News

I have enjoyed working with so many families to assist in planning, selecting and implementing a variety of curriculum this year. I am excited to hear how the year goes with everyone. Please feel free to share your experiences, offer suggestions, or provide feedback about the curriculum you are using. With such a wonderfully eclectic school, it's so important to get feedback from our expert parents regarding the variety of curriculum we use to be able to make suggestions to others.

Getting Ready for the State Assessments

We want to encourage all students in grades 3-8 and grade 11 to complete the Smarter Balanced Practice and Training Tests at home with their parents. It is never too early to start practicing, and even though 2020 has been anything but normal, **we are still on track to have testing this year!** Visiting these tests throughout the year will help you guide your student's instruction to areas where he/she may be struggling. You can use programs like **Moby Max** and **Education Galaxy** (provided at no cost to your instructional funding budget this year) to help reinforce skills that your student struggles with on the practice tests.

Use of the Smarter Balanced practice and training tests for English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics will help familiarize students and their families with the testing interface, the format and type of questions, and the available accessibility resources. The practice tests may also form the foundation of a good "family conversation" and may help you create instructional materials to use at home with your students. Students who complete the practice test and know what to expect have less anxiety and feel more confident on test day, helping them perform better overall. Quick Reference Guides are available online for Training and Practice Tests.

[Starting a Practice Test Video](#)
[Practice Test & Training Test Access](#)
[Scoring Guides](#)

The Practice Tests provide students with grade-specific testing experiences with content.

The Training Tests provide students with the opportunity to become familiar with the testing tools. See below for a comparison.

	PRACTICE TESTS	TRAINING TESTS
PURPOSE	Provide students with a grade-specific testing experience similar in structure and format to the summative assessments.	Provide students with an opportunity to quickly become familiar with the software and interface features. There are no performance tasks.
GRADE LEVELS	One test for each of grades 3 through 8 and grade 11	One test for each of three grade bands: 3-5, 6-8 and high school
ITEMS	Approximately 30 items each in ELA and Math per grade level, as well as one performance task for each subject per grade level.	Approximately 15 items per test (6 in ELA and 8-9 in math); no performance tasks are included.

RESULTS	Results are not scored, but answer keys and scoring rubrics are available.	Results are not scored; no scoring rubrics or answer keys are available.
Universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations are available on all practice and training tests.		

Grasp the CAASPP Sessions

We are excited to announce our Third Annual “GRASP THE CAASPP” program. We want to encourage all of our 3-8th and 11th grade students to actively participate. Students can earn prizes, and, most importantly, can increase their state assessment scores, all while having fun!

Students attend live “gaming” sessions online via Google Classroom where they will participate in games to practice their grade level skills with a credentialed teacher. Games include Kahoot!, Trivia, Jeopardy and more. Students will have fun practicing for the state assessment and earn raffle tickets to try and win prizes. Make sure students log in with their CWCS school email. Sessions have already started! Dates are posted on the website.

For more information and to sign up, visit our [GRASP THE CAASPP](#) website.

iReady Diagnostic Score Reports

All score reports from the fall iReady Diagnostic Administration period are available for review. Please be sure to ask your Education Specialist (ES) to send you a copy and review your student’s score reports carefully. Your ES has also been trained to read these reports and can help you understand how to read it as a tool to help guide your instruction.

If you’d like to schedule time to discuss curriculum ideas, plan lessons, create thematic units, or just have questions I can answer, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at sjohnson@connectingwaters.org or at 800-808-9895 x 252.

English Learner Department

Happy Fall, parents and students!

I know that we are only in the third month of school, but I hope that you are already noticing some positive changes in your child and their academics!

Here in the EL Department, we are working hard to ensure that your students are supported as they work through their English curriculum. Some fun and wonderful things are going on in our classrooms. Your students are using not only the fabulous supports embedded in their digital textbook (the text read aloud feature is one of my favorites!), but they are also harnessing supports like Listenwise and Quizlet.

Listenwise is a fabulous program that uses podcasts (short audio presentations) to help our children learn to process audio information, listen for audio clues, and remember important details that they hear during a presentation. Each of these skills will help your child not only as they work through their classes, but also as they go through the many stages of their life. Listen along as your child works in Listenwise. We are certain that you will also enjoy the audio presentations. Here is a tip that may help your child: if the presentation is too fast, remind your child that they can slow the audio down and read the transcripts along with the audio.

Quizlet is a virtual flashcard program that can help your child learn academic vocabulary. Academic vocabulary is vocabulary specific to a certain subject. English curriculums teach a lot of vocabulary! Your child's vocabulary will grow by leaps and bounds this year! Quizlet can be used in many ways. It can be used in the classroom with the teacher, but it should be used independently by your child. The great thing about Quizlet is that children can use it like digital flashcards or they can play games. Both ways will help them to learn the terms that they need to expand their vocabulary.

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, through 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, though 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.



Outdoor Science School

CWCS 5th & 6th graders will have two options this year for Mount Hermon Outdoor Science School in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The first option is to attend a one day field trip. The field trip will be 6 hours long (typically 9am-3pm). The cost will be \$80. The second option is tentative. This will be to go for a week in April/ May 2021 as long as the camp is able to open and can ensure safety of the students. The cost will be \$285 and both options can come from student funding.

A CWCS ES will accompany the students. Counselors will be CWCS 11th & 12th grade students recommended by their ESs. This activity is not open to non-CWCS students. Parents are responsible for getting their students to and from camp, and may not attend with their students.

Please watch the parent listserve for more information about signing up and the dates. For more information about the camp, visit <http://outdoorscience.com/>. When viewing the site, note that we are attending Public School camp, NOT homeschool camp. Click on "Public School" under "Programs". Also click on "Parent-Student Manual" under "Resources" for required paperwork and more information. Forms will be sent to the CWCS Outdoor Science School Coordinator. Please do not mail them to Mount Hermon, or our school office or learning centers.

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

Christine Trejo
Guidance Counselor
800-808-9895 x213
ctrejo@cwcharter.org

Melissa Cripe
CTE Coord/Guidance Counselor
800-808-9895 x226
mcripe@cwcharter.org

Mary Halter
Guidance Director
800-808-9895 x238
mhalter@cwcharter.org

We are available in person by phone or online anytime; to schedule an appointment call 1-800-808-9895 x344 or email guidance1@cwcharter.org.

PSAT/NMSQT for 10th/11th graders - New Date! January 26, 2021

The College Board has opened up a new winter testing date for schools that are distance learning. We are tentatively planning to administer the PSAT/NMSQT test for 10-11th graders at both our Modesto and Union City Resource Centers on Tuesday, January 26, 2021. We will be closely monitoring the rules set by The College Board and will communicate updates to students, staff, and parents as they become available.

Where: CV Resource Center (Modesto) and CWEB Resource Center (Union City)

When: Tuesday, January 26, 2021

Time: 8:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m. (approximately)

Why: Scholarships: Scores are used by scholarship programs, including the National Merit® Scholarship Program, to look for eligible students. For more information click [here](#)

PSAT 8/9: Update

We will also be offering the PSAT 8/9 for 8th and 9th grade students; however, it will not be in the Fall. Date and details will be shared on the parent listserve and in future newsletters as soon as they are available.



AP Exams (Advanced Placement):

Any students interested in taking an Advanced Placement exam this Spring, please let your ES know as soon as possible. The Guidance Department will work with you to get you registered, but we need to be in contact with you. The College Board registration deadline is November 13, 2020, so we need to get the registration process started. Please email guidance1@cwcharter.org if you have any questions.

Information for Seniors-Class of 2021

School Secondary Reports and Transcripts for Colleges and Scholarships:

Private Colleges ask for a School Report and Letter of Recommendation from your School's Guidance Department. Connecting Waters Guidance Department provides this for you, but please give at least 3 weeks' notice. Contact Guidance at guidance1@cwcharter.org

Transcript Requests: If you need an official or unofficial transcript sent, please allow 5-7 business days. Contact transcripts@cwcharter.org or call 1-800-808-9895 ext. 6 to request a transcript.

College Applications and Scholarships

Private Universities- Right away start researching private colleges for application deadlines, career schools for information, look for scholarships; do you need to take the SAT or ACT? If you need help, contact Guidance at guidance1@cwcharter.org

CSU and UC Application Deadline is November 30—apply for [CSU](#) and [UC](#)

SAT or ACT by December – last month, for most private colleges, to take [SAT](#) or [ACT](#). Make sure to use our school code CW use 053706, CWEB use 050352, CWCV use 053963 when you take the test.

Check out our Scholarship Information page at www.cwcharter.org; go to “High School,” then “Guidance,” then “Scholarship Information.”

Financial Aid

We send in the CalGrant for you. YOU apply for FAFSA by March 2 www.fafsa.ed.gov

Online Workshops (offered by CWCS Guidance Department)

Financial Aid and Scholarships Workshop - October 23, 11:00 a.m.

Contact guidance1@cwcharter.org for meeting link



Class of 2021 Awards at Graduation!

Awards are given to graduates who meet the following criteria (Only graduates who participate in the graduation ceremony will receive the awards):

CSF Life Membership Awards – graduates are honored with a gold cord for being an active CSF member for four (4) semesters. Applications due by September 15.

To apply, go to www.connectingwaters.org, then Students, then Clubs and Activities.

NHS Awards – graduates are honored with a blue cord for maintaining at least a 3.00 GPA and high standards of service. Applications due by September 15. To apply, go to www.connectingwaters.org, then Students, then Clubs and Activities.

Community Service Award - graduates who meet the service requirement will receive a green cord to wear. Online application (go to www.connectingwaters.org, then High School, then High School Guidance, then Community Service Hours Survey) is due by March 1, 2021.

Career Technical Education (CTE) Completers - Students completing any of the CTE 2 year sequences of classes will receive a red cord at graduation. They will also have this noted on their transcript.

College and Career Resources

Looking for resources? Visit the Guidance website at www.cwcharter.org, then High School, then High School Guidance. You will find the High School Catalog, Career Resources, Scholarship and Grant information, Grad Requirements information, and more!!!!

Looking for the right career or college? Try these websites: www.californiacolleges.edu; www.cacareerzone.org; www.studentaid.ed.gov ; www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org

Where is the best place to look for answers to your high school questions? See the High School Catalog under the High School tab, then Guidance. Here's the link: [High School Catalog](#)

Free Online Virtual College Fairs at www.collegeweeklive.com

How can a student earn a 4.25 GPA? Here's an explanation of our "weighted GPA" policy

Students who take UC Approved Advanced Placement (AP) courses or UC transferable courses (that meet a-g requirements) at Community College will earn "Honors" credit on their GPA. Grades earned in AP courses or UC approved Community College courses will earn 5.00 GPA points for an A, 4.00 GPA points for a B, and a 3.00 GPA points for a C (D's and F's do not qualify for "Honors" credit). Connecting Waters offers AP English Language/Composition and AP English Literature/Composition. UC approved online vendors and AP courses can be found at cwcharter.org, then Departments, then Guidance. Questions? Contact Guidance at guidance1@cwcharter.org



11th grade students...UC Local Guarantee Eligibility in the Local Context Program

Connecting Waters participates in University of California's Eligibility in the Local Context program for 11th grade students. To find out if your student will qualify for participation, see [Local Guarantee \(ELC\)](#). Students with an academically rigorous course load will be considered; criteria for consideration include: a-g course pattern completion (11 a-g courses completed by end of Junior year), a combination of Community College and a-g courses. 11th graders who have general courses but have completed at least geometry will be considered; students with above average SAT and/or ACT scores will be considered (latest exam date for Juniors to be considered is SAT-May, ACT-April, and CW students must use CW School Code 053706 when registering. For CWEB and CWCV, the goal is to begin participating in the Local Guarantee (ELC) program beginning with this year's 11th graders (Class of 2021).

