

School News

Due to the continued need for 'physical' distancing and the stay at home ordinance in order to stop the spread of COVID -19, we are extending our physical closure through May 1st. We will continue to serve our students and there will be more details to come. Please review listserves and communicate with your ESs to stay informed.



Curriculum Department News

With all this rain some may be wondering if spring will ever come, but rest assured, spring is around the corner, and with spring comes thinking about next year. We have some exciting things in store for next year. Keep these things in mind when you start planning your curriculum for next year.

We are getting ready to stock our Resource Centers with great curriculum to supplement your favorite subjects. Be sure to watch for Listserves for dates when the centers will be open for next year's checkout.

Spotlight on Math Curriculum: Parents' Choice

We recently surveyed over 250 of our families who had students who met or exceeded state math standards on their 2019 CAASPP assessment to find out what they were doing. We are excited to share a summary of the results with you!

- An average of 57% of the students used a CWCS recommended core math curriculum **or** another state adopted curriculum (found on the [CDE Webpage](#));
- Another 23% of students used a CWCS recommended Concepts & Skills Review Curriculum with their core program to fill gaps and ensure standards mastery;
- 97% of the students received 4-5 hours or more of math instruction each week.

Other than the Recommended CWCS Core and Supplemental (Concepts & Skills Review) Curriculum used by over 80% of the students who met or exceeded standards, some favorite textbooks reported included:

- Beast Academy
- Mammoth Math
- Art of Problem Solving
- Singapore Math
- Saxon Math

View our Recommended Curriculum Page by visiting our website and go to >>Departments>>Curriculum>>Recommended Curriculum.

Getting Ready for Science

The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) are content standards for Science, fully implemented by California in 2017. The current state standards for English Language Arts include literacy components in science, but they do not include the content that are the California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS). The last California Science Standards were adopted in 1998. In the last 20 years, there have been significant advances in science and technology; therefore, updated science standards are necessary for students of California. The good news is these standards focus more on hands-on science than just learning facts. That's something our kids will have fun with! Last fall, California adopted new textbooks aligned to these new Next Generation Standards. The current adoptions can be viewed on the [CDE Webpage](#). Several Connecting Waters families piloted the new Pearson Elevate Science Program this year and provided overwhelming positive feedback about the program. Our recommended curriculum page will be updated next year to include some new science options. In the meantime, feel free to browse the adopted curriculum publisher webpages for additional information. Samples are also available at our centers for parents to review several of these programs.

Whatever you decide, be sure when selecting curriculum, you look for ways to implement the cornerstones of NGSS: Core Disciplinary Ideas, along with Cross Cutting Concepts (how do the sciences relate to other sciences and subjects), Practices (scientific thinking and behaviors), and Engineering Practices.

Here are some resources to help your science planning for next year:

- [About the NGSS Standards](#)
- [Additional NGSS Resources](#)
- Check out these wonderful videos and online lesson plans with NGSS standards including cross cutting concepts. The videos are high quality and excellent: [Shape of Life](#)

Other Curriculum Support

Be sure to ask your ES about other curriculum supports we created, such as our **Collections Companion** project and our **"I Can" Math** support guides to strengthen your student's English Language Arts and Math development.

Concepts and Skills Review & Student Achievement

Everyone has been working hard this year on grade level concepts and skills. Students are making great progress and the recent data from the school-wide benchmarks reflect it, showing that the personalized learning model charter students can perform just as well or better than traditional-school students. Keep up the great work!

In planning your student's grade level concepts and skills review programs for next year, keep in mind our recommendations: Study Island, MobyMax, Common Core Coach, Core Skills, On Core, and now, Education Galaxy are all great choices. Be sure to ask your ES about these great options.

Be sure to review our schools' [Dashboard Data](#) to see how our students are performing. A video of what the California Dashboard is all about can be [viewed here](#).

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, Shoni Johnson, Curriculum & Assessment Director, at sjohnson@connectingwaters.org or call me at 800-808-9895

x252.



College Concurrent Enrollment Forms and Early Start College Forms Summer Semester must be received at the school office for an official's signature by: May 8

Fall Semester must be received at the school office for an official's signature by: May 20

Please remember that you must allow 72 hours (3 business days) from the time the form is received in our office before you will receive the signed form. Signed Concurrent Enrollment and Early Start College forms can be emailed, faxed, or mailed back to the student/parent.

It is the parent or student's responsibility to forward the signed form to the College's Admission and Records Office.

Concurrent Enrollment and Early Start College forms will not be signed during summer break. All forms received during summer break will be returned to the student/parent.

Please plan your college course schedule and submit form accordingly.

- Teachers will be on vacation March 13-20, 2020 for Spring Break.
- Teachers will be on vacation starting May 25, 2020 for Summer Vacation.
- The office will be closed July 20-July 31, 2020 for Summer break.

Hello April