# Happy 20th Birthday, CWCS!

Sherri Nelson, Executive Director/CEO

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year, which marks 20 years of serving students and families with excellence through personalized education while providing parent choice! We are so excited that we have made this amazing milestone in the Charter world!

Charters come and Charters go, but Connecting Waters continues to be a great place for students and staff. It hasn’t been easy as we have navigated through the various state requirements and changes. What sets Connecting Waters Charter Schools apart from other charter schools is our commitment to parent choice, flexibility, safety, high academic standards and integrity.

Through the pandemic Connecting Waters Charters Schools provided uninterrupted education to all of our students. We were equipped and prepared to continue to provide a personalized program for each of our students. We are proud to announce that Connecting Waters East Bay was recognized as a California Distinguished School out 500 schools chosen out of the 6000 public schools in California! This is a high honor and proves that our model works as we have graduated thousands of students over the past 20 years!

We are committed to our vision, mission, and goals, while providing the best education ever to our students. Safety has always been important to our parents and students.

We continue to ensure that our students who use our community partners are safe. We are following the requirements of the new law SB130 as of last year and make sure ensure that our community partners meet all of the requirements to keep our students safe. We also do our best to make sure the safety of our students on our school networks through Google Apps for Education, Canvas and other platforms that we use. We have Chromebook devices for our students who would like to order one. We have an impressive Information Technology (IT) team who stays on top of technology and the safety of our students.

We welcome all new and returning families of our three schools: Connecting Waters (Waterford or School 1), Connecting Waters East Bay (Union City or School 2), and Connecting Waters Central Valley (Modesto or School 3). With the three schools, Connecting Waters Charter Schools has to work with three different authorizers. This alone presents various challenges as the authorizers are all different and in some cases have different requirements. You can’t compare CWCS with other charters since each charter school legal document is unique. However, all charters have to follow the laws set forth by the state of California and the Federal government. Rest assured that the staff of CWCS are committed to keeping our charters open as we follow the law and provide choice and flexibility in education!

We are thankful for our governing board members who make certain that our schools are fiscally sound and meeting our academic state requirements. We have a total of seven board of director members this yea; three of them are new this year. All are doing a fantastic job. Please visit the [Board of Director](https://cwcs-k12-pt.schoolloop.com/pf4/cms2/view_page?d=x&group_id=1438443584770&vdid=i38b1tk3o14o) webpage under the About Us tab on your school website and learn more about our wonderful board members who volunteer their time for our school! Thank you all for your service to our students and school!

* Nina Vieira- Current CWCS Parent Board Chairman
* Robert Avila- Community Member and former CWCS Parent Board Co-Chair
* Bonnie Cerruti- Community Member and former CWCS Parent Board Secretary
* Erika Melton- Current CWCS Parent Assistant Board Secretary
* Kaneez Fatima- Current CWCS Parent Board Member
* Jennifer Louie-Monzon -Current CWCS Parent Board Member
* Denise Davis- Current CWCS Parent Board Member

CWCS schools are moving forward and looking forward to for our online (through Canvas) and in person (at our Resource Centers) class opportunities for our students. We have hired wonderful new staff to provide support to our students and families. We have had staff retire at the end of last year, and as we wish them well and miss them dearly, we are excited for our current staff stepping into those vacant positions or new roles.

We appreciate all of our current and new employees in the various departments. We have a remarkable team and we consider each other family! We are all here to support our parents and students. You are not alone on this rewarding and challenging journey.

### Our priorities for this year include:

1. Strengthening personalization for each student by:
	1. Daily engaging our students
		1. Completion of daily assignments
		2. Opportunities through ‘Tiger Time’ with your teacher of record/supervising teacher/ES
		3. Opportunities for live interaction
		4. Provide Social and Emotional support
	2. Curriculum training for parents and staff
	3. Every student reading by 2nd grade
	4. Strengthening writing skills
	5. Use of local data to increase student proficiency
	6. Providing Tiger 101 and 102 parent training (Tiger 101) and continuing parent training opportunities
	7. Use of *IReady* progress monitoring help
	8. Preparation for State testing (CAASPP)
		1. Daily practice
		2. Grasp the CAASPP
		3. Resource Center classes
2. Use of social media to tell our story to enhance personalized learning
3. Strategic Plan through our WASC and LCAP Goals:

**LCAP/WASC Goals**

1. Increase the percentage of students who are on-track to graduate college and career ready
2. Close the achievement gap in the low performing students in English and Math
3. Increase the percentage of EL students who achieve proficiency in English Language Arts and Math
4. Community Outreach to foster positive relationships

Sincerely,

Sherri Nelson

Executive Director/CEO