

South Sutter Charter School

Spring 2011



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East Nicolaus, CA 95659
(Do not send mail to this address)

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SSCS Directors
Becky Cote: Education Services
Janet Marsh: Education Specialist Support

Letter from the Directors



Dear South Sutter Parents:

We are scheduled to participate in the STAR testing within our testing window from March 24th through April 28th.

Please make sure students bring a lunch, snack, and water to the testing site. Also, please be sure to have them bring a quiet activity just in case they finish their test before the other students. iPods are not allowed on site and cell phones must be turned off during testing and all breaks.

Your student has 2-4 days to complete their test

Please note that testing sessions are arranged by your student's last names. If for some reason you cannot make your assigned date, please let your Education Specialist know immediately so that they can re-schedule and make sure your test materials are available for you.

Students in grades 5th, 7th, and 9th will be administered a Physical Fitness Test at their STAR site. Be sure to remind them to dress appropriately and bring water.

Please make sure to check out our assessment web-page to find other information and study help for the STAR, <http://www.ieminc.org/Assessment/index.htm#STAR>.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns regarding the STAR testing. We will work with you and the Assessment Department in resolving any issues you may have.

Remember that last year, we barely met the 95% attendance for the STAR, so please make sure your students are well rested and get to testing performing their best. We are doing everything we can to help support you making sure your students are successful life-long learners. We appreciate all of your hard work and efforts involving yourselves in your children's education.

Thank you in advance for your positive participation in this annual testing process.

Sincerely,

Becky Cote, Director of Education Services

Janet March, Director of ES Support



SSCS Graduation will be held on Saturday, May 21, 2011



**The ceremony location has been change to:
E.V. Cain Middle School large gym
150 Palm Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603**

Senior ceremony will be at 10:45 AM

8th grade ceremony will begin at 12:30 PM

Students need to arrive 30 minutes prior to their ceremony time for check in.

Highly Qualified Subject Matter Experts (HQT SME) Under ESEA (formerly NCLB)



The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) was passed in 1965 as a part of the "War on Poverty." [ESEA](#) emphasizes equal access to education and establishes high standards and accountability for schools and teachers. The law authorizes federally funded education programs that are administered by the states. In 2002, Congress amended ESEA and reauthorized it as the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). This year, the Obama reauthorization is again being referred to as ESEA, not NCLB.

How will the new ESEA regulations effect students beginning with the 2011-2012 school year?

We will continue to watch to see what changes may be coming for our school. For the most part, this program is expected to stay the same, with just a few changes to the regulations. The Highly Qualified teacher is expected to stay the same: All high school core courses, all a-g courses and Algebra 1 (taken in any grade) must be taught by an Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT). If your ES is not highly qualified in a core subject area, the student has 3 options:

1. Take the course at the community college,
2. Take the course online (so no additional costs are incurred),
3. Or sign up for an HQT SME CP course under a Highly Qualified Teacher. The HQT SME CP courses cost \$86.32 in instructional funds per course per semester. Each Highly Qualified Teacher has weekly office hours for students to make contact with their teacher should they need additional subject help.

Which courses are required to be taught by a Highly Qualified Teacher?

All core courses with state standards and all a-g courses are required to be taught by a Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT). The list below is not complete but is meant to highlight California's most significant changes for 2012 from this year. Please discuss your child's specific courses with your ES, as there may be exceptions or courses not mentioned below.

Mathematics: All core math classes require an HQT (*not a change*). Note: Algebra 1 requires an HQT, no matter what grade level it is taken in, or whether it is being taken as an elementary course or a HS course.

English: All core English 9-12 courses require an HQT (*not a change*).

Science: Each of the specific sciences will now require an HQT qualified in that science subject area (*this is a change*)-- Biological Sciences; Chemistry; Geosciences; Physics. For 2012, we have an HQT ready to go for each of the sciences except Physics. This means that students planning to take Physics should plan to take it online or at the community college next year.

History: World History, US History, Government, and Economics all require an HQT. The school has an HQT for these courses (*not a change*).

Foreign Languages: This subject area probably had the biggest changes. Each specific foreign language now needs to have its own language-specific Highly Qualified Teacher. We have an HQT for Spanish and Russian, but not for the other foreign languages. This means that students taking a foreign language other than Spanish or Russian will need to take their foreign language course online or at the community college. Your ES can give you online foreign language vendor suggestions.

Visual and Performing Arts: (*this contains several changes*).

- Dance no longer requires an HQT. Dance is now considered solely a PE standards course (even when used to fulfill the VAPA requirements).
- Visual Arts and Music both now need an HQT specific to each of those subjects. We have a Visual Arts HQT and are working on hiring a Music HQT. If it turns out that we lack a Music HQT, that course will need to be taken at the community college. *Important Note: The University of California does not accept online Visual and Performing Arts courses.*
- Theater Arts/Drama courses can now be taught by a teacher with an English certification. So this course will now be overseen by an English HQT rather than a Visual and Performing Arts HQT like we have had in the past.



a-g Courses: All a-g courses require an Highly Qualified Teacher, even if the school graduation requirements have all been met and the course is being taken as an a-g elective.



The School Accountability Report Card (SARC), which is required by law to be published by February 1 of each year, contains information about the condition and performance of each California public school. Our SARC is posted at this link: SSCS: <http://www.sscs.cc/Handbook/sarc/SARC2011.pdf> If you do not have access to the internet, and wish to view our school SARC, please ask your ES for a copy.

Ed Services Dept.



The EL tutors have been busy administering the CELDT, assisting students in their preparation for the CAHSEE ELA, and tutoring in speaking, reading and writing in English. In our sessions, we have discovered that many of our students' lives are immersed in their first language and rarely do they use English. We are actively encouraging all to listen to English dvd's/music/television and speak in English for at least one hour daily. We are encouraging them to utilize the internet as much as they are allowed to and to make it a family endeavor. Youtube has many videos for ESL, and that is for free! Then there are reasonably priced programs, such as Brainpop ESL, which are wonderful and friendly for younger students. Please continue to encourage your students to practice their English speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. If you have any questions or feedback, please contact Nancy Thomas ntthomas@ieminc.org or Alison Garcia agarcia@ieminc.org



Selecting the Right Book for You!

Summarized by Your Special Education Department

Teaching students how to pick a "just right" book can sometimes be tricky. Here are some suggestions from www.readingtogether.org (Rogers, K. *Selecting Books for Your Child: Finding 'Just Right' Books*, 2008).

Five finger rule

1. Choose a book that you think you will enjoy.
2. Read the second page.
3. Hold up a finger for each word you are not sure of, or do not know
4. If there are five or more words you did not know choose an easier book

Still think it may not be too difficult? Use the five finger rule on two more pages.

Choose a book that is a good fit for you!

Read two or three pages and ask yourself these questions:

1. Do I understand what I am reading?
2. Do I know almost every word?
3. When I read aloud, can I do it smoothly?
4. Do I think the topic will interest me?

If most of your answers were "yes", this will be an easy book to read independently by yourself.

Will this book be too hard for me?

1. Are there five or more words on a page that I don't know, or am unsure of?
2. Is this book confusing and hard to understand by myself?
3. When I read it aloud, does it sound choppy and slow?

If most of your answers were "yes," this book is too hard. You should wait awhile before you read this book. Give the book another try later, or ask an adult to read the book to you.

When your child can't read the word, say...

Can you sound it out?

Fingertap it. This helps them hear the syllables in each word

Can you think of the word or movement that helps you remember that vowel sound?

What is the first and last sound? What word would make sense?

Does it have a pattern that you have seen in other words? (ex-an, ack)

How does the word begin?

You said _____. Does that make sense?

What word would make sense that would start with these sounds?

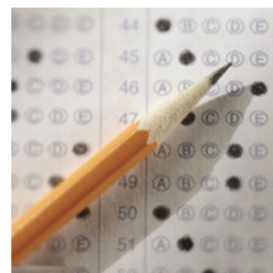
Put your finger under the word as you say it.

When your child wants to read a book that is too hard, say...

Let's read it together.

This is a book you will enjoy more if you save it until you are older — or later in the year.

STAR Essentials



The STAR (Standardized Testing and Reporting) is an annual standardized test, mandated by the State of California and in compliance with No Child Left Behind. 95% student participation is required for grades 2-11.

Dates for grades 2-11 multiple choice portion of the test are within the state mandated test window. The test window for this year is March 24, 2011- April 28, 2011. Please **check** the school web-site for your students specific test site, dates, and times; <http://www.ieminc.org/Assessment/index.htm#STAR>

If you have a 5th, 7th, and/or 9th grade student then they will be taking the Physical Fitness Test (PFT) at their STAR testing site. Please make sure that they bring shoes and comfortable clothes. Please have your child practice throughout the year so that they will be ready for the test. The tests will be on:

1. **Mile run:** Prepare for this one by having them run to the mailbox to get the mail and then add to it from there (to the corner, around the block). Have them do races with one another when the weather is clear.
2. **Push-ups (full length):** This scares some of you but I *promise* you that if you start by doing just *one push-up* a day, before you know it you will be doing 5, then 10 (I do 10 a day myself and I'm an old lady!).
3. **Curls:** Start school with a few stretches and a few of these curls. They are easier than sit-ups (and safer for your back and neck). Try doing curls to a times table (12 times 5 is....) or recite a short poem.
4. **Trunk lift and touching your hands together over your shoulders:** Do this before or after your curls. Just try to touch your fingers over your shoulder (for one hand) and up from below for the other. For your trunk lift, just lie down (on your stomach) and put your hands at your side and lift up (without using your hands). You can practice this exercise for back strength by lifting your legs and front arms while flat on your stomach (pretend you are flying!).



The California Department of Education and Educational Testing Services have developed a comprehensive website to help prepare you and your student for the STAR test in April. The link is www.starsamplequestions.org. The portion most helpful for parents and students is the "Sample Test Questions" section. From the homepage, click the "Parents and Community Members" link. Then click, "Sample Test Questions" on the top of the page. You will then be able to enter your student's grade level, subject, and performance level. Performance level allows you to see the types of questions asked to achieve that level as well as the standards that specific question covered. This is a user friendly website with excellent information. Please take advantage of it. Ask your ES if you are confused about how to use this website.



PLEASE NOTE: There will be assessment rewards this year **ONLY** for those students who score a "Proficient" or "Advanced" on both the ELA and Math portion of their STAR tests. The rewards will be given out after we get the scores back and only to students that are enrolled with us for the following year. In addition to scoring "Proficient" or above, 10th graders must attend their CAHSEE February test in order to earn their reward and 4th & 7th grade students must take their required writing test in order to earn their reward.



May 2010
by Lee Binz
The HomeScholar

The Joy of Tests

16 Ways Standardized Testing Can Help Your Homeschool Thrive!

Number 2 pencil. Palms sweaty. Heart racing. The answer could be A, B, C, or D. Answer D could be A plus B, or it could be none of the above. Acronyms like PSAT, CAT, ITBS, CLEP. What to do? Now is no time to panic!

Bubble tests are never fun, but there are some benefits of including them in your homeschool. Please understand that I'm not a big proponent of tests. In my homeschool, only about half my classes included tests, and the other classes were "assessed in different ways" and evaluated without tests. But annual standardized tests are required by our state law, and over the years I have come to recognize some benefits of the dreaded bubble tests.

1. Measure student ability

I can't tell you how many times a parent has told me "my child isn't doing very well" only to find out they were above grade level. As I was consoling one mother, I encouraged her to look at her children's annual assessment, to see if her concerns were truly valid. "Holy cow I just got the results back from the California Assessment Test the boys took recently. Christopher's overall score was 99%. This included vocabulary, comprehension, Spelling, Language mechanics, Language Expression, Mathematics Computation, Math concepts, Study skills, Science, and Social studies. Matthew scored 96% overall on the above subjects as well. Ok so I can relax a little on this homeschooling thing."

2. Assess relative strength

One drawback of homeschooling is that we become so close to our children that we can easily identify their weaknesses. Unfortunately, while it may be easy for us to see their failures, we lose sight of where they are in the grand scheme of things, and how they compare to others. You know their weaknesses. But does that really mean they are below grade level?



3. Learning at their level

Using a test can help you identify what level your child should use in each textbook or subject. Why bother teaching something a child already knows? It is a waste of time. Instead, you can assess where they are and then begin teaching at the point they will actually learn something. With a math book, for example, you can use an online placement test and then give an end-of-chapter test to see what they know already.

4. Assess high school credits

Some tests can be used to determine if you have achieved high school credit. SAT Subject tests in French or American History can prove that a child of any age has achieved a high school amount of learning in a particular subject. Standardized tests can tell you if your child is ready for a challenge, or if it's best to wait until later before starting at the next level.



5. Meet college admission requirements

Colleges will almost always require test scores for admission. Whether students choose the SAT or ACT is less important, but colleges will want to see a standardized test score in order to help determine college readiness.

6. Practice for the SAT

Fill-in-the-bubble tests can provide practice for college admission tests. As students become familiar with bubble tests and crowded testing environments, they are also practicing key skills in college admission tests. The SAT or ACT is sometimes the first time homeschoolers are in a group-testing environment.

7. Practice for testing in college

When I speak to colleges about homeschoolers, they are almost universally positive and happy about their preparation. But one college representative did have a concern. He had seen some students who were so used to natural learning that they weren't prepared for bubble tests. He felt that represented a weakness in homeschoolers. While I disagree that it is a common problem, it's certainly worth mentioning. Taking tests is one thing that is usually required in college. Taking some kind of test in high school can help children prepare for the kinds of tests colleges give. That doesn't mean you have to test all the time, of course! Just enough to be prepared.



8. Save money on college costs

Certain tests can help you save money on the cost of college. Scholarships are often tied to test SAT or ACT scores, and so practicing and planning for those tests can provide scholarship money. Some parents use testing to document college level learning by using AP and CLEP tests. Those tests can be used for college credit, and may shorten the time spent in college, which can reduce the number of years you pay for college.



9. Outside documentation of grades

Reflect and document your homeschool grades with outside documentation of learning. Without using tests at every juncture, a single subject test can provide some proof of learning from an impartial third party like the College Board. Whether that documentation comes from a college admission test, subject test, or community college course grade, those tests can prove the student had the underlying knowledge necessary to succeed.

10. Practice for life

Bubble tests do exist in real life as well. Voting is often done as a bubble test of sorts, and often the test to obtain a drivers license also requires a test. Tests are given on the job, from feedback forms to personality profiles, and people need to feel comfortable with the process of testing.

11. Emergency preparedness

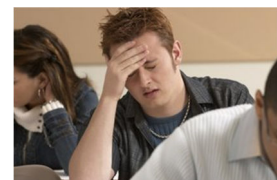
Testing can help you plan for a potential home school emergency in the future. A yearly test can provide a record of what your children know, at least as a very rough estimate. Taken the following year it can document that children actually learned something each year. This is important during a family crisis, even if school was hit-or-miss for a while due to illness or trauma. I have used standardized test scores with many parents to calm their fears after a year of crisis. "Look!" I can say. "You have NOT failed your children! Their test scores have improved or stayed the same!"

12. Determining grades

Tests can be used as a tool for determining grade. They are just one weapon, not the whole army, so don't use it as a SOLE source of grades. Still, any assessment can be used in your calculation of grades. If the SAT measures math, use that as a portion of your math grade. If the IOWA test measure vocabulary, use that as a portion for your English grade.

13. Avoid anxiety

Any new experience can cause anxiety. If a test is a new experience, it can cause fear in students. By providing some sort of test occasionally; children can learn through experience that nothing bad will happen, that there are always distractions, and that their best really is good enough. The PSAT can provide practice for the SAT, so children don't panic when taking the admission test. It can give kids practice taking tests around a large number of strangers with strange smells and even stranger looks.



14. Determine course titles

It's difficult to come up with appropriate course titles, and one of the easiest ways is to steal titles from subject tests. If your child takes a subject test called microeconomics, and you are stuck trying to think about what to call the class, guess what? Use the name of the test as the name of your course.

15. Motivate competitors

I have two very competitive boys and EVERYTHING was a competition. I was always careful to give the boys the same number of presents at Christmas. I remember the first time they caught on to this when they were little, I actually found them weighing presents with a bathroom scale to see who had the most poundage. These boys were BORN competitive! So naturally, when it came to end-of-chapter and college admission tests, both my children wanted the high score. With both of them motivated to get the higher score, they studied and prepared and laughed together. It brought a whole new sense of "trying to learn." Tests can motivate competitive children, even if they are competitive and motivated within themselves rather than with their siblings.



16. Help you relax

Standardized tests are required by some states, and obeying your state homeschool law can help you AND your child relax. Some jobs and colleges will want to see that you have obeyed your state regulations. Law enforcement and military recruiters may check up on you. It's good to know you've got your bases covered. Even if you aren't going to interact with those agencies, it can help. It's just nice to know that you have a back-up plan in case anyone should ever ask for proof that your homeschool was educating your children.

It's so ironic that I'm writing about the joy of tests! I have entire speeches, book chapters, and webinars on how to avoid testing in your homeschool! I'm not much of a grader, and didn't make much use of quizzes, tests, and worksheets in our homeschool. Even so, I can see that an occasional standardized test can help homeschool parents. Perhaps it's my Pollyanna nature, always looking at the bright side. Sure, tests can be stupid, and they definitely have their drawbacks. But I prefer to look on the bright side! There are at least 16 good reasons to do a standardized test this year.

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Lee Binz, The HomeScholar, specializes in helping parents homeschool high school. Get Lee's 5 part mini-course, "The 5 Biggest Mistakes Parents Make [Homeschooling High School](http://www.TheHomeScholar.com)." You can find her at <http://www.TheHomeScholar.com>.

Student Behavior at Test Sites



The following is our policy regarding student behavior during our various assessment administrations, most notably the STAR and CAHSEE. Please review this information with your students prior to arriving at the test location.

- An emergency contact number for grades 2-8 must be given to the proctor before testing.
- **No electronic devices are allowed out during testing or break times.** *Students need to turn off any electronic devices (i.e. cell phones, MP3 players, etc) and put them away.* Any devices **that are visible or ring** during the test **will be confiscated** and returned at the end of the test. These precautions are needed to ensure the security of the test and a good testing environment.
- We are using private property and the rules of the facility must be followed.
- Students are not allowed to go into other areas of the facility besides the designated test areas.
- There will be no rough-housing, walking on benches outside or furniture inside.
- Supervising adults will be listened to and obeyed.

- There will be no talking, note passing, or noise making while anyone is testing.
- There will be no talking when the teacher is talking. Hands will be raised for questions.
- During breaks, quiet talking is allowed.
- Only one student at a time will be allowed to leave the room to use the bathroom.
- When tests are finished, students will stay in the classroom until all others are finished, students must bring quiet activities to engage in during this time (books, coloring/drawing materials).
- Respect will be shown for other's personal space and belongings.
- There will be no verbal or physical abuse. Threatening or violent behavior will not be tolerated.
- Profanity will not be tolerated.
- There is no smoking, drinking, or illegal drug use.

Breaking these rules may result in Suspension or Expulsion from any school group activities or if serious, from the school itself. Parents will be called immediately and students will be sent home with consequences. If the student is able to make-up the test, he/she will return at a later date to make-up the test missed.

Students may not leave the facility until:

- Grades 2-8 parents come in and check students out from their teacher.
- Grades 9-12 students check out from their teacher with a signed letter from parent stating that they may leave on their own (if student does not have a letter, they will wait there until a parent or guardian can be contacted and talked with by an adult helper or teacher).

Testing Tips

- ✓ Make sure that your student goes to bed early and has a full night's rest prior to testing.
- ✓ Make sure that your student has a good protein breakfast prior to testing.
- ✓ Send your student with a snack and bottled water for break time.
- ✓ Prepare your student for testing by using test prep materials.
- ✓ Let your student know that the results will not affect their grades; however we do want them to take it seriously and do their best.
- ✓ Let your student know that they are not penalized for wrong answers so it's okay to make an educated guess.



CAHSEE NEWS!



The California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) is a requirement for graduation and for receiving a high school diploma. Your student has three years to attempt to pass the CAHSEE, starting in their 10th grade year. A score of 350 is required to pass each area (Math and Language Arts) of the CAHSEE. **Current law states that special education students must still take the CAHSEE, but they do not have to pass both parts in order to receive a diploma (though this may change in the future).**

All 10th grade students **MUST** take this exam in the spring. Their results affect our school's report card, which could affect school funding. Also, it has been proven that the students that take the CAHSEE in 10th grade, on average, pass it more often than those who wait!

Contact your ES if your student cannot attend their assigned site. The ES can then have the assessment department make adjustments to have the student test at a location more convenient for them. For more CAHSEE information and the most current testing site information, go to <http://www.ieminc.org/Assessment/index.htm#CAHSEE>

Here are the remaining CAHSEE testing dates for the 2010-2011 school year:

<i>English Language Arts</i>	<i>Math</i>	<i>Administered to:</i>
Tuesday	Wednesday	
May 10, 2011	May 11, 2011	Grades 11 & 12 Grade 10-make ups

Please have your student attend the CAHSEE and don't forget their picture ID!



2012 School-Wide Writing Assignment Expository Compare and Contrast Essay Writing

The school-wide writing assignment is a great opportunity for the family to focus on learning about and students to become proficient in one new genre each year. As your children go up through their school years, they will have had instruction, practice and exposure to each of the various writing

genres.

The school-wide writing assignment is required for all students in grades 2-11 and any 12th grade student who has not yet passed the CAHSEE English-Language Arts. Students in grades K and 1st are encouraged to participate, but are not required to do so.

Next year's school wide writing assignment genre will be expository compare and contrast essay writing. Be thinking now about what resources you might want to purchase in addition to the information provided by the school to help you teach that genre.

A great program to teach writing for grades K-8 is the program, "Strategies for Writers," 2008 edition, by Zaner-Bloser. You can find the product information by going to, <http://www.zaner-bloser.com/Strategies-for-Writers.html> and pricing information by going to, <http://shop.zaner-bloser.com/c-105-strategies-for-writers.aspx>. This writing program gives easy to follow, step-by-step writing instruction in each of the following genres: narrative, descriptive, expository, and persuasive writing. While the four genres covered remain the same from year to year, the types of writing within each genre vary from year to year so that over the years, students are exposed to all of the types of writing they will need to know. Also included is a section after each genre that provides students with instruction and practice for taking a high stakes exam in that genre. This section of the program is particularly useful, as many writing programs do not address how to approach a high stakes writing exam.

Next year, if you want to double up and have a writing program that teaches writing across the genres while providing instruction for the 2012 school-wide writing assignment, you might be interested in the following grade levels of this program:

Level B (1st Grade) has instruction on descriptive compare and contrast writing.

Level D (3rd Grade) has instruction on expository compare and contrast essay writing.

Level E (4th Grade) has instruction on expository compare and contrast essay writing.

Because students complete the school-wide writing assignment in the fall semester, you would want to jump ahead and start the school year with the chapter on compare and contrast writing. Then go back to the beginning of the book after that chapter has been completed.



Educational Videos

by Shelley Ross, Curriculum Coordinator

One advantage to learning in the home is the parents' ability to make learning rich and relevant in ways that can be more difficult to do in the regular classroom. Children who do their schooling at home are not limited by classroom time constraints or the physical limitations of the school facility, and the community becomes an extension of their learning.

In addition to resources within the community, educational videos are another great way to enhance your child's learning. Videos can broaden the depth of the information being learned and provide relevancy through real-world tie-ins. Educational videos are particularly effective for auditory learners, but all students benefit from the

ability of videos to immerse them into the topic at hand. I like to think of the textbook as the "skeleton" of a course, while hands-on activities, field trips and videos act as the "flesh" that creates the interest and passion. Lastly, add in related trade books or historical novels from the same time period and you have a course that inspires learning.

While the school maintains many vendors who supply educational videos, there are four that stand out in popularity.

1.) **Brain POP.** Brain POP is a subscription-based website that offers standards-based animated educational movies for grades K-8 in science, social studies, math, English, health, & technology. This vendor's program is very user-friendly. Students can click on the subject or the grade level standard to access animated videos as a way to create interest in the topic or supplement any curriculum's missing standards. The school does not receive special school pricing, so you can access Brain POP license pricing from their website, <http://www.brainpop.com>.

2.) **Discovery Education *streaming*.** This vendor provides online access to over 22,000 educational videos and video clips and their reputation speaks for itself. If you desire to purchase a Discovery Education *streaming* license for the 2011-2012 school year, let your ES know in May so they can submit a "Delayed Session 12" PO in May. This PO will not be processed until July 1, 2011 and all 2011-2012 licenses will expire June 30, 2012. Discovery Education *streaming* offers pro-rated pricing that can change from year to year. To see this year's pricing and to get "ball park" pricing for next year, go to http://www.ieminc.org/handbook/curriculum/vendor/DE_Pro-RatedPricing2011.pdf. We won't have next year's pricing for another couple of months. Watch the parent list serve for information, or talk to your ES who will get you their pricing for next year.

To view Discovery Education *streamings* website, go to <http://www.discoveryeducation.com/administrators/curricular-resources/streaming/>.

3.) **Aim Education/Learn 360.** This vendor provides online access to educational videos, video clips, encyclopedia articles, and source documents. They take individual POs, are responsive to your questions, and their ordering process is simple and quick. Their website is clean and user-friendly with lots of training videos available to help you navigate. After login in, you can click on any California standard and bring up a whole host of related videos, video clips, and encyclopedia articles.

Though this company began in 2008, it already offers over 8,900 videos with more coming online all the time. Included in their collection are videos from National Geographic, Biography and History Channel, A&E, PBS, Dr. Suess, Between the Lions, Reading Rainbow, Weston Woods, Standards Deviant, and the popular Hollywood Film Clips for character education...and this is just a partial list of the companies whose videos you will be able to access online. Sunburst Media is also exclusive with Learn 360 and it includes their award-winning Health and Guidance videos. For the 2011-2012 school year, a **family** license will only cost \$120, and licenses purchased after December 31, 2011 will only cost \$90. To view the Learn 360 website, go to <http://www.learn360.com/index.aspx>. If you need more than one student login you can make that request by emailing, Kirstine Larsen, iemtraining3@ieminc.org.

4.) **Library Video Company.** This vendor sells educational video in CD, DVD, and VHS. Parents might consider purchasing at least three course related history or science videos each year if they don't have access to an online educational video license. More videos can then be checked out through the local public library. By purchasing some, parents are guaranteed to have at least three videos to show at the appropriate time which will optimize learning and make the content fun and interesting. The rest of the year, the videos from the library might not necessarily tie in to the topic being studied that week, but they can be used as a way to reinforce learning that has already occurred, or as a way to introduce new learning about to take place. When I was homeschooling, I tried to show either a science or history video each week relevant to what we were studying. Some of my favorite videos from this vendor are the Schlessinger Media science videos, particularly the ones whose titles end with "...for Children" (i.e. Plants for Children). Thoroughly enjoyable also is their series entitled, "Bug City". There are ten titles in this series and all have wonderful photography. To view the Library Video Company website and entire video selections, go to <http://www.libraryvideo.com/>.



Curriculum Information

Parents frequently utilize the Approved Vendor List in their search for curriculum, tutors, and classes. But sometimes overlooked is the curriculum information posted on the Curriculum Homepage, <http://www.sscs.cc/curriculum.html>. From this page, check out the Curriculum Information Grades K-5, <http://www.ieminc.org/handbook/curriculum/genccurres/curric/elemK-5.dwt>, and Grades 6-12,

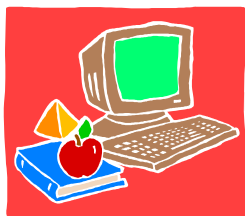
<http://www.ieminc.org/handbook/curriculum/genccurres/curric/secon6-12.dwt>. At the top of each of these pages is the link for the Parent Curriculum Workshops,

http://www.ieminc.org/handbook/curriculum/genccurres/curric/parent_wkshp_2011.pdf. The year's workshops, date/time, and how to sign up is posted to the curriculum pages every August for the entire school year. So look those over and mark your calendars. Most parents have indicated that the workshops they attended were "time well spent".

On the Curriculum Information pages for Grades K-5 and Grades 6-12, the subjects are listed down the left side of these pages, and the subject-related links go off to the right. You will find curriculum information for each subject according to these categories: complete curriculum, online curriculum, supplemental curriculum, FREE websites, standards review. Then depending upon the subject, curriculum can also be found by other categories such as intervention, literature and libraries, trade books, lab kits, history crafts and art appreciation, timelines, magazines, posters and maps, handwriting, writing, phonics, spelling, grammar, vocabulary, fluency, comprehension, poetry, and readers.

To the very far right of each subject are links to a few recorded WebEx curriculum trainings. You might need to download the WebEx player in order to view them from the link provided, or go to www.webex.com for help setting up your player. If you scroll below all of the subject curriculum information, there is more curriculum resource information.

The school is continually adding to these Curriculum Information pages for Grades K-5 and Grades 6-12, especially under the FREE Websites links, so it is a good idea to check them periodically to see what is new, interesting, and fun!



CURRICULUM WEB LINK ADDITIONS TO CHECK OUT!

Digital History

Online American History Textbook, links to primary sources, lesson plans and guides, student inquiries and activities, and multi-media.

http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/database/hyper_titles.cfm

Penn State University's Electronic Classics Site

Read the classics online! Scroll to the bottom of the page for the links to this vast list of online classics.

<http://www2.hn.psu.edu/faculty/jmanis/jimspdf.htm>

Paper Rater

Automatic online paper grader website that does editing, a grammar check, a spell check and a plagiarism check. Simply go to the website, enter the title of the writing sample, the works cited, the grade level of the student-author, the genre of the paper, and agree to the terms of service. The report will cover Originality/Plagerism Detection, Spelling Suggestions, Grammar Suggestions, Word Choice Suggestions, Style Suggestions, Vocabulary Suggestions, and Writing Tips.

http://www.paperrater.com/free_paper_grader#

STUDY ISLAND (online)

This vendor continues to be great way for students to review the California standards for subjects K-8 and the CAHSEE. All licenses are school-year licenses and expire in June of each school year. Full year licenses currently cost \$25 and pro-rate down from there until the end of May. Ask your ES to call the vendor for pro-rated pricing before creating your PO.



Student ID Cards may now be requested via email! Simply send your student's photo as an attachment in jpeg format to sssecretary@ieminc.org. Please be sure to include your student's name(s) and mailing address.

If requesting by snail mail, please send 1" x 1" photo with student's name along with a self-addressed stamped envelope to: SSCS Student ID, 2452 El Centro Blvd., East Nicolaus, CA 95659.

Please allow 2 weeks to process.



SSCS Parent Listserve Parents on our listserv receive time-sensitive communication, parent specific school information, school deadline reminders, and school vendor notifications. Please email our school secretary at sssecretary@ieminc.org to request an invitation today!

New Vendors! Please click on the link below for a list of new vendors for our Spring newsletter. <http://www.sscs.cc/Newsletters/ssven211.pdf>