

# Creative Writing Syllabus

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This syllabus is subject to change.

## REMIND – please sign up (if you haven't already):

Send a text to Remind with the number: **81010** (Remind app) then, enter the code that corresponds with your child's class period in your message:

Period 2: @43cadha

Period 5: @g2a8k28

Period 3: @hh3g34

Period 6: @a3cf3d7

This will keep you updated on when grades are posted, great projects we're doing, if your child's writing is published for the school website, and any information I need to send out to you.

## SUPPLIES NEEDED:

Pens or pencils to write with

Composition book that is dedicated to my course only, please

## PURPOSE OF COURSE:

The purpose of this course is to enable students to learn and use writing and language skills for creative expression in a variety of literary forms. Emphasis will be on development of a personal writing style.

We use a writing workshop approach, which means students are interactive and share with others what they are working on in small groups or partners of their choice. I also meet with student writers one-on-one to help them individually with concepts taught in class and with writing and staying on track with the course.

## The content includes but is not limited to the following:

- writing for varied purposes and in varied genres, including
  - personal and dramatic narratives
  - various poetic forms
  - plays and multimedia productions

- multi-genre and creative nonfiction selections
- digital writing platforms
- a study of a variety of short literary collections, including poetry, one-act plays, the short story, and memoir to determine and practice
  - literary text craft and structure
  - use of figurative, denotative, and connotative language
  - appropriate voice and/or tone
  - story structure, poetic forms, and creative pacing techniques
  - reciprocal nature of content and form
- effective listening, speaking, and viewing strategies with emphasis on the use of evidence to support or refute a claim in multimedia presentations, class discussions, and extended text discussions
- collaboration amongst peers, especially regarding peer reviews of multiple drafts

### **GRADES:**

My goal is to grade every day as students turn in assignments. I do have lots of students, so to get to all the assignments, it may take a few days before I get to your child's assignment. It also depends on how long the specific writing piece is.

In MyLearning, if a student has submitted an assignment, this is indicated on the right-hand side of the screen and gives the date and time submitted. If it is not submitted, the SUBMIT ASSIGNMENT button is still present.

If a student does not turn in an assignment by the due date, this will be indicated by a zero. The student has the opportunity to make up that zero during the quarter in which this zero was earned.

### **HOW I GRADE**

Journal Writing Assignments (all activities in the Composition Book) - graded 4 times per quarter worth 100 points each time.

Writing Assignments – (all of these are submitted on MyLearning) graded weekly or bi-weekly worth 100 points for each assignment

Quizzes/Tests - as needed – 1 point per question, usually

Writing Projects are a series of Assignments – so ONE project may encompass several assignments. I do not give a separate grade for completed writing projects, since the completed project is an assignment in and of itself.

Additionally, I don't use percentages; I use the point system instead.

Students who earn a lower score than what they would like can revise and re-submit an assignment (once) for a higher score, except for quizzes and tests, or past the time I need to turn in grades for that quarter.

I use rubrics that spell out the specific qualities I'm looking for in an assignment. I also give students feedback.

Students are responsible for checking their grades and making sure they have assignments submitted on time. They are also responsible for revising and re-submitting when asked to do so to earn a higher score.

#### **MISSING ASSIGNMENTS and ZEROES in GRADEBOOK:**

A student can only earn a zero if they have not turned in an assignment.

If they do some part of an assignment, they still earn some points. Therefore, if you see a zero in MyStudent or in MyLearning, it's because a student either hasn't completed that assignment, or has not submitted the assignment by the due date.

As soon as the student turns in that assignment, I grade it within that week and their grade will reflect that.

#### **HOMEWORK/MAKE-UP WORK:**

I do not assign homework in Creative Writing; however, if a student missed class, their work needs to be made up in a timely manner in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. In this class, we have new work every day. They will not have time to make-up the work in class in most cases.

So, a student may have to do make-up work as homework or come to me during AIR Time to make up missed assignments.

All assignments are available online. Therefore, if a student is absent, it is the student's responsibility to check MyLearning and make-up the work. The lessons are also there as well.

#### **LESSONS and ASSIGNMENTS:**

All lessons and assignments will be posted in MyLearning. I update these assignments and lessons every two weeks. Students are locked out of assignments until the day they are assigned; however, they can still see the lessons given.

### **CELL PHONE POLICY:**

All cell phones are put away in pockets or backpacks during class time, unless there is a family emergency. In that case, students may ask for permission to use their phone to contact you or answer a text from you.

Please remind your child that being interrupted by constant texts coming in from friends, even if the phone is on vibrate, will affect their performance in school. It is extremely distracting for them and difficult for them to concentrate.

### **STUDENT BEHAVIOR:**

We have one rule in our classroom – We respect each other.

Everything falls under that rule. If a student is struggling with an expectation, I will contact you and let you know. I want to support your child as much as I can in our classroom, and I follow the school's discipline plan. Most of the time, I only need to have one conversation with a child, and then they understand my expectations.

However, sometimes, they need more than that, and that's when I ask you for help and may ask for other help from our wonderful guidance staff and other supports. Thank you so much for your continued support with helping your child navigate through middle school.

### **Per Board Policy- 2240 - CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES:**

The Board recognizes that a course of study or certain instructional materials may contain content and/or activities that some parents find objectionable. If after careful, personal review of the program lessons and/or materials, a parent indicates to the school that either the content or the activity conflicts with his religious beliefs or value system, the school will consider a written request for his child to be excused from a particular class for specified reasons. The student, however, will not be excused from participating in the course and will be provided alternate learning activities during times of such parent requested absences.

I can't wait to see what your child creates in this class – we're going to have a wonderful school year!

