

# **Creative Writing Course Syllabus**

**Mrs. Thomas**

**2013-2014**

## **Course Description:**

This course will focus on expressive writing in many different forms. Students will have the opportunity to explore several different types of poetry and prose styles, as well as responding to literature, art mediums, quotes, and music. Originality and writing that shows thought will be emphasized. Strategies to avoid writer's block and new ways to uncover ideas for writing will be studied. Peer reviews and sharing ideas are essential elements to this course.

## **Contact Info:**

My planning period is second hour 9:00 - 9:50 A.M. If a conference is desired, parents can reach me by calling the office at 387-6322, my voicemail at 387-6479, or e-mailing me. I will be happy to get back with you to discuss any concerns. I will be available for extra help after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

## **Course Content:**

Students in Creative Writing will write poems, short stories, plays, news stories, comic strips, children's books, an autobiography and other types of writing that express creativity. Students will also study writing samples from professional writers as well as student writers to guide student progress.

### **-First Nine Weeks:**

- Characteristics of Good Writing
- Poetry
- Figurative Language
- Imagery
- Sensory Details
- Point of View
- Rhyme
- Repetition
- Parallelism
- Short Story
- Theme

### **-Second Nine Weeks:**

- Word Choice
- Precise language
- Poetic Forms
- Adventure Story
- Character, Setting, Plot

Style  
Playwriting

-Third Nine Weeks

Humor  
Using Structure to Reflect Theme  
Art, Music as Inspiration for Poetry  
Descriptive Writing  
Persuasive Writing—Commercial  
News Story  
Memoir—Reflective Writing  
Mythology

-Fourth Nine Weeks

Autobiography  
Children's Books  
Action in Story Writing  
Paint-Write Project  
Anthology  
Fable  
Fairy Tale  
Vocabulary

**Course Materials:**

- Three-ring binder
- Notebook paper
- Pens/pencils
- Colored pencils
- Dividers (4)
- Your Brain!

\*Other materials may be needed later for special projects; students will be notified in advance what is needed.

The Notebook:

The binder should be divided into three sections: Bellwork, Notes, Vocabulary, and Graded Work. Students must save all poems, stories, and writings after they have been graded and returned. Please keep them in the notebook until the end of the year. This is so that the student's writing will be readily available for contests and so that students can choose their best work for the anthology at the end of the year.

**Course Policies and Procedures:**

1. All rules in the school handbook or given by the principal will be upheld in my classroom.
2. Bring all required materials to class.
3. Keep a positive attitude. Please let me know if you need help; I am willing and happy to help you with any assignment that is giving you

trouble.

4. Be on time. If you are not seated and ready to work when the bell rings, you will be counted tardy.
5. Be respectful to your classmates and teacher. Raise your hand to add a comment to the class discussion, and don't interrupt. Please don't roam around the classroom; find something to work on if you finish early.
6. Turn in the given assignments. All the assignments given in this class have a purpose; failing to complete an assignment may cause you to fail to understand an important concept. Plus, zeros can ruin your grade.
7. Absolutely no violence of any kind (verbal or physical) will be tolerated.
8. Be courteous to others and respect property.
9. Cell phones not to be out during class. Keep them put away with the power turned off.
10. Food and/or drinks are not allowed in the classroom. (Bottled water is okay.)
11. Students will be given three chances per nine weeks to go to the restroom, lockers, or office. You must use one of the three hall passes provided by me at the beginning of the nine weeks to leave the room. It is YOUR responsibility to keep up with your passes. You may choose to turn in your passes at the end of the nine weeks for extra credit instead of using them to leave. You will not be allowed to leave without a pass.
12. Students who do not respect classroom rules will receive consequences that fit the infraction and may result in parent contact and/or referral to the principal.

### **Grading Policies:**

#### Absences

Students are allowed no more than ten absences per semester. Anything above that earns no credit. Take doctor's notes to the office.

When a student is absent, he/she must make up the work that was missed. That is the STUDENT'S responsibility. Students should come to me to get missed assignments and turn them in. One day per day missed plus one is given for make-up work.

#### Grades

Assignments are worth 50-100 points, quizzes are worth 200, and tests are worth 300. The Semester Test is worth 10% of your final grade each semester. Projects may be worth more or less than a homework assignment depending on the extent of the project; students will be notified ahead of time the value of each project.

Late work is highly discouraged in my class. Procrastination is a bad habit and will significantly reduce a student's grade. Late work will only be

accepted for half credit up to one week late. After that no credit will be given.

I will offer some form of extra credit each nine weeks, and I recommend students take advantage of it.

Progress reports will be sent home every three weeks.

I am looking forward to a great year. I hope to challenge you to become better, more confident writers and thinkers and to discover more about yourself and your world through your writing. Enjoy being in a class with those who share your interest in writing creatively. May you all reach your goals as writers!

Please sign on the appropriate line and return to me by Friday. (This is your first assignment worth 100 points.) After getting the form signed, keep the syllabus part in your binder to use as a reference. Turn in the signature page into the basket on my desk.

*I have read the course syllabus for Creative Writing and I understand all the policies and expectations of this class.*

Student's Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone Numbers (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell/Work) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent E-mail \_\_\_\_\_