

Creative Writing

Rm. D202

Course Welcome

The Creative Writing curriculum promotes the academic, social and cognitive development of students who are expected to become successful and productive members of society. The Creative Writing curriculum contains the listening, discourse, reading and writing skills needed for students to demonstrate maximum growth in every other subject area and in their future careers. As part of the Creative Writing curriculum, students will acquire the necessary skills to think analytically about information presented to them in a variety of formats, including speaking, writing and various forms of print and electronic media.

The Creative Writing curriculum will prepare students to be critical interpreters of media, to articulate their thoughts and back them with evidence, and prepare them to express their own ideas artfully and effectively. The Creative Writing curriculum is designed to elevate students beyond baseline skills and provide them with rigorous and relevant opportunities to arm them with the communication skills and literacy interpretation skills required to not only skillfully navigate but lead the global community of the ever evolving 21st Century.

On a personal note, as an author myself, I hope to make this class as inspirational, envigorating and productive as humanly possible. Thank you for choosing to come along with me on this journey.

Your instructor:

Mr. Harshman

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(314) 953-7353

Course Description:

The Creative Writing course is designed to promote essential literacy, discourse and thinking skills required for students to acquire new information independently as lifelong learners. Throughout this course students will gain proficiency through multiple opportunities to expand their academic vocabulary and closely analyze literary texts to use as mentor texts for their own creative writing. Students will use multiple online tools to produce their writing and provided feedback for one another on their writing, including blogs, educational social media sites, and online writing communities. Students will work collaboratively with their teachers, peers and educational community to develop clear communication skills in both writing and verbal discourse. Students will also have opportunities to publish their writing or share their writing with a wider audience. Students will produce multiple pieces of writing for a variety of purposes. Creative Writing is an elective course for 12th grade students.

Course Outline:

**Unit 1**: Introduction to Creative Writing

**Unit 2**: The Short Story

**Unit 3**: Poetry Portfolio

**Unit 4**: Fairy Tales and Children’s Books

 **Grading Structure:**

70% Summative Assessments

* Student grades will be based primarily on the major projects (summative assesments) at the end of each unit.

30% Formative Classwork

* Daily assignments, independent practice in class and homework.

**Rules/Policies/Expectations:**

* Classroom expectations:
	+ See attached document for further details.
* Please refer to your student handbook regarding classroom expectations such as tardies, restroom use, and cell phones, as those policies will be followed.
* Technology Use:
	+ Please bring your Chromebook to class every day, so that you are prepared to use it for classwork. We will use Google Classroom regularly.
* Flexible Seating Use:
	+ Flexible seating is provided for student use during independent reading and work time at the discretion of the teacher. Students must be seated at desks for instruction and whenever requested by the teacher.
* Daily practice of independent reading and writing is an essential part of this classroom. Students will be expected to participate fully and avoid creating distractions to the learning environment.

**Behavior:** Your classroom conduct should adhere to the policies outlined in the Student Handbook and the attached Rules & Regulations packet, as well as relevant 21st Century Skills for each unit. I e-mail home just as frequently for exceptionally well-behaved and apt students as I do for non-compliant students. Be sure you are in the former category in order to derive the utmost from this class.

**Attendance:** If an absence is excused by me, it is then the student’s responsibility to obtain classwork they missed by checking Google Classroom and seeking additional help for assignment comprehension and completion (if needed).