**Welcome to Creative Writing!**

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Ms. Ecker will start the year with you all, as I am on maternity leave! See you in November!

**Goals for the Course**

* To write frequently, building stamina and exercising the writing muscle!
* To experiment with new ideas, topics, and styles of writing!
* To share your writing and respond to the writing of your peers
* To revise your writing and improve your editing skills
* To learn to write with confidence and ease
* To bring several pieces of writing to completion and publication
* To build a writing portfolio (with writing in different styles)

**Routines**

* **Writing into the Day**: Each block we meet, we will start with a writing prompt. Oftentimes, they will grow from a mentor text or other inspiration. Even if you don’t immediately connect with the prompt, give it a try! You never know what will come out! **These will count towards your 10 point daily participation.** You must make up these daily exercises when absent.
* **Mini-Lessons:** I will introduce many writing strategies and concepts through specific lessons, usually using mentor texts.
* **Finalized Writing:** 100 point assignments. These are writing pieces you take through the entire writing process. Sometimes they will grow out of Writing into the Day or Mini-Lessons. You will have a choice in which pieces you want to finalize. We will agree on grading criteria.
* **Revision:** We will practice revision. Revision is not editing!
* **Publishing:** We will discuss several different means of publication. Writing it meant to be shared publicly!
* **Electronic Portfolio:** You will bring several pieces of writing through the entire writing process and will compile your final drafts in an Electronic Portfolio using Google Sites or another preferred platform.

**Google Classroom**

Though there will be times when you will receive hard copies of materials/assignments, most of your work will be done through the digital platform. Stay organized!

**Supplies**

* Have your school-issued Chromebook in-class and charged each day!
* Decide how you want to stay organized. Find a system that works for you! Dedicate a notebook, folder, or binder for Creative Writing materials only, though most of it will be on Google Classroom!
* Pens with blue or black ink only!

**Grading and Feedback**

* This course is graded in a holistic manner. We will create rubrics together around established criteria. I’ll always show you performance standards and grading criteria before collecting work.
* I will provide written and verbal feedback on your writing through individual conferencing. You will also receive feedback from your peers.
* Revision: You can revise all writing assignments *as many times as you want* for an improved grade. However, in order to do so, you must meet or correspond with me on an individual basis so we can discuss your ideas for revision.

| Understanding the Gradebook  I will maintain up-to-date records of all your assessments. Please use the gradebook to check in with your own progress, but try to build a healthy relationship with the number you see on the screen or on the tops of your papers. Always do your best, but also know that you are so much more than your grades!  I use the “total point” method for your quarterly grades.  Total points earned ÷ Total points available = Final Grade  Assignments that require more work or depth of knowledge will be worth more points. I encourage you to prioritize these assignments.  Please note that at the beginning of each quarter, your grade will be greatly impacted by each assignment because there are not many total points available. As the quarter progresses and you have more assignments, each assignment will have less of an impact on the final grade. |
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**Expectations**

* Language is important, and words matter. Racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, or other abusive language will not be tolerated. Language is powerful and we must use our powers for good!
* We will review the definition of plagiarism, which is broader than simply copying work. Instances of plagiarism, which can be intentional or unintentional, will always result in a conversation. We will discuss how to revise the work so that it properly gives attribution to the original creator and so that it reflects your own thoughts and ideas. If plagiarism occurs, I expect a complete revision of the assignment, otherwise no credit will be granted for the assignment.
* Together we will build a safe learning environment that, hopefully, will feel like a community. Think about what that means. What do you need from a community? What can you contribute to a community? We will adhere to the behavior policies from the High School Student Handbook as a starting point.
* Try your best. Come prepared to class and ready to learn. Push yourself to participate when asked. Complete assignments in a timely manner.

**How can I help?**

* I want to help in any way that I can. If you are struggling with an assignment, meeting the expectations of our class, or ANY other issue, please let me know and I will try to help or put you in contact with someone who can help.
* Communication is so important. I won’t know you need help unless you tell me. I’ve tried, but I can’t read minds.