**Course Syllabus**

**Creative Writing**

**Mrs. Briggs**

[**Theresal.Briggs@cms.k12.nc.us**](mailto:Theresal.Briggs@cms.k12.nc.us)

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Tutoring: Tuesday 8:15 AM

**Course Description** Creative Writing is a composition course that will introduce students to techniques aimed at developing the creative process. Students will experiment with expressive and poetic modes of writing, including the writing of fiction and poetry. The focus on the writing process will allow students to develop and strengthen their writing through techniques that emphasize prewriting, drafting, revising, and peer editing (W5) while producing quality writing samples that are appropriate to task, purpose and audience (W4). Class readings will expose students to different writing styles and provide examples of the strategies used by successful authors. Creative Writing offers students the opportunity to explore creative avenues of expression while continuing to improve skills required of a college-and-career-ready student.

**Essential Questions**

* **What are the steps in the writing process?**
* **How can texts serve as models of inspiration for students’ thinking and writing?**
* **How do task, purpose and audience influence the development and organization of a particular writing task?**
* **How can a writer use structured conversation, feedback and criticism to improve his piece?**
* **How does a writer use knowledge of language to make appropriate choices for meaning and style of a particular writing task?**

**Common Core Standards** The National Common Core Standards will guide us in our study of English this year in line with CMS expectations.  
  
**Provided Course Texts**

*Everyday Creative Writing: Panning for Gold in the Kitchen Sink*

We will be reading a variety of texts, including short stories, poems, articles, chapters, and whole novels chosen from the following list: *Chicken Soup for the Writer’s Soul: Stories to Open the Heart and Rekindle the Spirit of Writers* by Jack Caufield, Mark Victor Hansen, and Bud Gardner, *Daybook of Critical Reading and Writing*, Great Source, *The First Five Lines: A Writer’s Guide to Staying Out of the Rejection Pile* by Noah Lukeman, *The Language of Life: A Festival of Poets* by Bill Moyers, O*n Writing: A Memoir of the Craft* by Stephen King, *Poems, Poets, Poetry: An Introduction and Anthology* by Helen Vendler, *Points of View: An Anthology of Short Stories* by James Moffett, *Postmodern American Fiction: Norton Anthology, Writer’s Digest* (monthly magazine). Various forms of media, including song lyrics, YouTube videos, topical articles, graphic novels, and more will also supplement the course.

**Course Objectives- Throughout the year, students will be able to:**

* Demonstrate an understanding of the differences in literary genres and writing styles through discussion and written analysis of a variety of selections from various genres and authors.
* Demonstrate an understanding of literary devices, figures of speech and sound patterns through discussion, written examination and actual use in writing.
* Demonstrate an understanding of the conventions of the various literary genre—such as plot, setting, characterization, theme, stage direction, dialogue, dialect, introduction, conclusion, description, anecdote—through discussion, written examination and actual use in writing.
* Write a minimum of 10 poems, two short stories, one character sketch, one dramatic piece, and two personal essays which incorporate genre specific criteria as specified by rubric.
* Demonstrate an understanding of and ability to effectively and appropriately participate in the process of literary critique through participation in peer response groups, teacher conferences, and written self- reflections.
* Demonstrate an understanding of the writing process by participating in writing workshops and producing multiple drafts of written work.

**Required Materials (please have these by the end of the first week of school)**  
5-Subject 8 ½” x 11” Notebook w/plastic cover (pockets, college rule, 200 sheets), notebook paper, blue/black pens, pencils, colored pens, assorted highlighters, Post-it notes and page markers, glue sticks, ear buds (for watching instructional videos only)

**Classroom Rules and Procedures**

1. Be on time, on task and prepared to learn every day.

2. Keep all personal electronics put away.

3. Be responsible for your own learning.

4. Respect the teacher, the classroom, and other students.

5. Trash goes in the trashcan!

**Attendance and Tardies** We will follow the CMS guidelines regarding attendance and tardies. When the bell rings, you will be sitting in your assigned seat, unless otherwise directed. If you come to class late, and without a proper note, you will be marked tardy. You will not have permission to leave the class until I dismiss you. Do not line up at the door! Please note that CMS policy indicates that more than ten absences of a class results in automatic failure.  
  
**Makeup/Late Work** Students who miss homework or other assignments or due dates because of absences (excused or unexcused) are allowed to make-up the work. **Only students with excused absences will receive full credit for late assignments made up within 5 class days of their return to school.** Late assignments (formal or informal) will be accepted within 5 school days with a penalty of 10% per day. **Assignments turned in after 5 school days within the same grading period will receive a maximum grade of 50%. Assignments will not be accepted after the grading period is complete.**

It is your responsibility to check the makeup folders for missed work and to schedule any makeup quizzes or tests with me. Please see me before or after school; do not ask me at the beginning or in the middle of class. This does not include major papers or projects that were assigned long before your absence. They are due immediately upon your return.

All work must be submitted for grading by the following dates. Work submitted after these dates will not be included in the final grade for that quarter.

1st Quarter October 23

2nd Quarter January 11

3rd Quarter March 21

4th Quarter May 31

**Materials** Come to class prepared. All work should be completed in a notebook kept specifically for this class as I may collect and grade these overnight. All class materials should be brought to class everyday unless otherwise indicated.  
  
**Participation** It is of the utmost importance that you come to class prepared as participation in class discussions, class work, etc. will be a percentage of your grade. Failure to comply will result in a 0% for your participation grade.  
  
**Restroom** Restroom requests will be honored on an emergency, as needed basis. Do not interrupt a lesson asking for permission to go to the restroom! No one will be leaving the class on a regular basis to use the restroom.  
  
 **Dress Code** In addition to your homeroom warning, this is your first and final warning from me: keep it classy. Refrain from wearing clothes that are excessively tight, short, offensive or revealing.  Any other clothing (i.e. hats or sweatbands) that is not in accordance with NWSA policy will not be tolerated as well. "Offenders" will be sent to the office without debate or explanation to call home.  
  
**Honor Code** All of your work (homework, writing, quizzes, tests, class work, etc.) will be original and references to other texts will be cited. Plagiarism/Cheating will result in a zero, a phone call home, and a referral.

**\*\*We will follow the CMS Code of Conduct regarding behavior and behavior infractions.**

**Grading Policy**  
A = 90 - 100  
B = 80 - 89  
C = 79 - 70  
D = 69 – 60

F = < 59  
• Grading for this course will follow CMS grading standards and will be weighted in the following categories:  
**Informal:** Homework, journals, class work, participation = 30%

**Formal:** Tests, essays, projects = 70%

Students will have the opportunity to retest on any formal assessment where mastery (80%) has not been demonstrated. A student is provided the opportunity to retest ONLY after remediation (tutoring, relooping, and reteaching) within 5 days of the original test. The highest score on a retest will be 80%. **Retests will not be given on major writing assignments and projects that are scored with a rubric provided to students when assignment is given**

**Contact information**:  
Parents and students, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you have. The best way to reach me during school hours and after school hours is via e-mail, as I can respond very quickly.  **Email:** [**Theresal.Briggs@cms.k12.nc.us**](mailto:Theresal.Briggs@cms.k12.nc.us)

**Extra Help**

Extra credit assignments will be given throughout the year to assist students who need additional credit. These assignments are optional. All extra credit assignments must be completed when given. **I will not assign any additional extra credit and I will not accept extra credit past the due date.** I will be available by appointment to work with students before or after school. Please arrange an appointment at least one day in advance.

**Course Overview**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Unit | Time Frame | Focus | Vocabulary |
| 1 | Ongoing | The Writing Process | Prewriting, drafting, revision, Peer Review, Editing, Publishing, Reflection |
| 2 | Quarter 1 | Creative Non-Fiction | Narrative, Point-of-view, Tone, Author’s Purpose, Theme, Style, Audience |
| 3 | Quarter 2 | Poetry | Form Poetry, Free Verse, Diction, Rhythm, Rhyme, Figurative Language, Syntax |
| 4 | Quarter 3 | Fiction | Fiction, Characterization, Setting, Dialogue, Plot, Conflict, Theme |
| 5 | Quarter 4 | Extended Writing-Dramatic Script and/or Children’s Book | Dialogue, Internal Monologue, External Monologue, Soliloquy, Stage Directions, Dialogue Notations, Setting |

**Assessment Practices:** Assessments will be given on a regular basis. There will be a major assessment for each unit in addition to the midterm and final exam. Many different kinds of measures will be used to assess students such as tests, papers, projects, and presentations. Some students learn best by reading and writing, others through collaboration with peers, others through listening, creating a schema or design, or hands-on practice. All types of assessments will be used at various times throughout the year. Rubrics for projects and major assignment expectations will be provided and posted in the classroom.

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**Signing this form indicates:**

**1. I have read and discussed the policies and procedures for Creative Writing.**

**2. I understand all of the policies as they have been presented and will adhere to them throughout the course of the year.**

**3. I understand that I will be given a progress report of my grades to share with my parent/guardian; this report will be considered parent contact.**

**4. My parent guardian has read, understood, and agreed with these policies as well.**

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**(Parent/guardian print name)    (Parent/guardian signature)                       (date)**

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**(Student print name)     (Student signature)           (date)**

**Parents and Guardians: Please list any alternative methods of contact (i.e. email addresses, work phone numbers and extensions) which I may use to keep in touch with you. Also, please let me know of any additional information I may need to know about your student.**

**E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Work/cell number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Additional Information: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Signing this form indicates: