Writing for 6th Grade

“It’s good to have an end to journey toward, but it’s the journey that matters in the end.”
~ Ursula K. Le Guin

Course Overview:
The student will participate in a program of writing activities designed to develop effective writing skills. The student will read, analyze and stylistically write in expository and persuasive forms. Basic grammatical skills, proofreading, editing, and the writing process are addressed and reinforced.

Course Description:
“Writing for 6th Grade” introduces the student to specific genres, methods and techniques of communication through the written word. The student will develop and demonstrate a deeper understanding, application and identification of English grammar and vocabulary. The student will read, analyze and stylistically write in poetic, narrative, expository and persuasive forms.

Course Goals and Objectives

Correlates with the California Language Arts Standards

1. Goal: To improve each student’s understanding of English grammar.
   - Objective: Be able to identify the names and uses for the different parts of speech.
   - Objective: Learn how to use correct punctuation and how to manipulate the meaning of sentences by varying the punctuation marks.
   - Objective: Reinforce the correct use of capitalization.
   - Objective: Use various strategies and phonics to improve spelling.

2. Goal: To increase the repertoire of each student’s vocabulary.
   - Objective: Build a vocabulary list based upon encountered words in reading
   - Objective: Be able to decipher meanings of words through context.
   - Objective: Develop a love of learning and using new words.

3. Goal: To learn the importance and power of a well-written sentence.
   - Objective: Learn how to write a well-written topic sentence.
   - Objective: Use varying sentence types for emphasis and variety.
   - Objective: Learn to write a clear, cohesive concluding sentence.

4. Goal: To demonstrate a command of standard American English.
   - Objective: Be able to write narratives effectively by developing a plot, setting and character.
   - Objective: Use sensory details and concrete language.
   - Objective: Be able to write well-organized expository paragraphs.
   - Objective: Use topic sentences, evidence and conclusions skillfully.
   - Objective: Be able to write persuasive compositions.
   - Objective: Develop a clear position and anticipate disagreements.

Course Materials:
Each student needs to bring a composition book, a folder or binder (personal preference), sharpened pencils, a red, blue and black pen, sticky notes and an independent reading book which they enjoy. All materials should be with the student each day.
Course Grading

Homework and Classwork:
Each student can expect an average of 20 minutes of homework each night, either reading or writing or both.

Quizzes and Tests:
There will be no official quizzes or tests as the teacher will be checking in with each child during the class periods to conference with them regarding their individual progress and make sure they are mastering skills. The teacher will use informal assessments. Grades will be based on students participation and ability to meet deadlines as well as progress shown in writing. The final grade for the class will not be a letter grade, but rather a developmental level assigned based on a rubric explained below.

Grading Policy:
Students will receive a final score on their essay of either beginning, emerging, developing, capable, experienced, or exceptional.

Classroom Behavior:
The student is expected to demonstrate mature, polite behavior and extend courtesy to everyone at all times:
1. Actively participate, and respectful verbal and nonverbal interaction with all opinions must be shown at all times.
2. Since differing views will be expressed, the teacher and the student(s) will mutually maintain a safe environment for courteous dialogue.
3. Respect is to be shown for all CSUN property.
4. No food or beverages will be permitted in the classroom. Snacks must be eaten outside between the designated breaks.
5. Warnings for behavior / discipline problems will be given once. Any further problems will result in a phone call to the parent(s) or guardian(s) and possible dismissal from the program.

SAEP Electronics Policy

Cell phones, music players and headphones are not permitted to be used during class hours.
   a. Please put your cell phone on silent (NOT vibrate).
   b. No texting is allowed during class.

You will be given one verbal warning if the above is not followed. Should a second warning be necessary, your cell phone, music player and/or headphones will be confiscated and help by the teacher until after class. If a third time occurs, your cell phone, music player and/or headphones will be confiscated and held in the SAEP office and MUST BE PICKED UP BY A PARENT.
After reading through the syllabus, please sign and date and have your student return it to class. The signature constitutes your commitment to the class as we partner to make the next five weeks a life-long educational experience for your student.

**Student/ Parent Agreement:**

Please bring this signed and dated **Writing for 6th Grade** syllabus agreement to class tomorrow.

If you do not understand any portion of this syllabus, or if you have any questions regarding this class, please do not hesitate to email the teacher.

We have read and understand the contents of this syllabus.

Student name ______________________________________________________

Student signature___________________________________________________

Date____________________

Parent/Guardian name _______________________________________________

Parent/Guardian signature_____________________________________________

Date____________________

Phone ____________________________

E-mail _____________________________________________________________