

5th Grade Writing Course Description BCCS 2011-2012

Contact Information:

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Best times to call: 7:00-7:30 a.m., 9:15-10:00 a.m., 1:00-2:00 p.m., or leave a voicemail at any time

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Course Overview:

What do great writers do? This will be the guiding question of our work in 5th grade writing this year. In this course, students will discover that great writers...

- know and use all eight major parts of speech (nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, conjunctions, prepositions, and interjections)
- write complete, grammatically correct, and detailed sentences of various types
- write well-organized paragraphs full of appropriate, relevant, and specific details
- use the steps of the writing process to plan, draft, revise, edit, and publish pieces of writing
- respond in writing to what they read
- write using a variety of genres (narrative, informational, response to literature, open response, persuasive, poetry, drama, friendly letter, etc.)
- use the six traits of writing to improve the ideas, sentence fluency, organization, word choice, voice, and conventions in pieces of writing
- know that writing is never finished, it is only done for now

The goal of the fifth grade writing curriculum is for students to master the structural building blocks of sentences and paragraphs and to begin to develop their own authorial voices in various forms of writing.

Additional expectations:

Students will use a Writer's Notebook to practice and develop their ideas as writers. They will collect and organize their work in Writing Portfolios which will be used throughout the year to reflect on individual skills, challenges, and progress. Students will also learn and practice vocabulary and spelling words through a phonics-based spelling program.

General Syllabus:

Time Frame	Topic of Study
August - September	Writing Process and Basic Sentences
October	Nouns and Verbs
November	Compound Sentences and Procedural Writing*
December	Paragraphs and Friendly Letter
January-February	Adjectives, Adverbs, and Poetry
March	Open Response and MCAS Preparation
April	Voice, Persuasive Writing, and Editorial Essay
May	Research*
June	Final Exam

Spelling and vocabulary will be taught on an ongoing basis throughout the year.

*These two topics will be taught in collaboration with science class

Assessment:

- Readiness for class and participation in class discussion and activities
- Folder organization and maintenance of Writer's Notebook and Writing Portfolio
- Participation in group written work, projects, and presentations
- Completion and quality of written in-class assignments
- Completion, quality, and punctuality of homework
- Quizzes
- Major writing projects
- Tests

Grading Policy:

Quarterly Grade

Homework	20%
Classwork	20%
Minor Assessments	30%
Major Assessments	30%

Final Grade

Quarter 1	23.75%
Quarter 2	23.75%
Quarter 3	23.75%
Quarter 4	23.75%
Final Exam	5%

Minor Assessments include grammar quizzes, spelling quizzes, pop quizzes, longer class assignments, presentations, etc. Major Assessments include unit tests and long-term writing projects.

*******Please sign and return this page only!*******

Dear Families,

Thank you so much for taking the time to read and review the course description for 5th grade writing. Please feel free to contact me at any point during this year with questions and concerns, or just to check in about your student's progress. I always enjoy speaking to parents about their student's learning, and I am looking forward to talking with you! My number one goal this year is to help your student grow to be a great writer!

For writing class and other subjects the Lower School will be using a targeted tutoring program. This program is designed to provide additional skill support to struggling students. As a result, tutoring is by invitation only. More information about tutoring will be coming home soon.

Please sign below indicating that you have read this course description. Then return **this page only.** Please keep the first page of the course description so that you and your student may refer to this important information as necessary.

Anticipating a wonderful year,

Jamie Hebert
5th grade writing teacher

Student Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

*******Please keep the first page of this course description!*******