

5th Grade Writing Course Description BCCS 2011-2012

Contact Information:

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Best times to call: 10:15am – 12:00pm, 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	Part of Speech	Genre Topic of Study
September – October	Nouns and Verbs	Basic Writing Forms (sentences and paragraphs)
November	Pronouns	Narrative Writing (focus on organization and sentence fluency)
December	Conjunctions	Developing a main idea with supporting details
January	Conjunctions	Informative Writing
February	Adjectives	Creative Writing
March	Adverbs	Opinion Piece
April	Interjections	Persuasive Writing
May	Prepositions	Research Project
June	Review all	Research Project

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

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 assignments
- Quality and punctuality of homework
- Quizzes
- Major writing projects
- Tests and graded written assignments

Grading Policy:

<u>Quarterly Grade</u>		<u>Final Grade</u>	
Homework	20%	Quarter 1	23.75%
Classwork	20%	Quarter 2	23.75%
Minor Assessments	30%	Quarter 3	23.75%
Major Assessments*	30%	Quarter 4	23.75%
		Final Exam	5%

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

Materials :

Students will need to have the following materials in writing class every day. If a student comes to class without these materials he or she will be considered unprepared and so will receive a demerit.

- 1 composition notebook (marble cover, stitched binding)
- 2 two-pocket folders
- Lined loose-leaf paper, wide rule
- 2 sharpened pencils (at least!)

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

Dear Families,

Thank you for taking the time to read and review the course syllabus 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 am looking forward to talking with you! My goal is to help your student grow into a great writer this year at BCCS!

Additionally, this year the Lower School will be using a targeted tutoring program, designed to provide additional skill support to struggling students. **As a result, tutoring is by invitation only.** More information about tutoring will be coming soon.

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

Sincerely,

Alana Kockenmeister,
5th grade writing & student support teacher

Student Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

*****Please keep the first page of the syllabus!*****