Creative Writing
COURSE SYLLABUS

Mrs. Griffin
erin.griffin@boerne-isd.net

CREATIVE WRITING 7/8 students will write pieces in multiple genres and study selected published works, as well as writing from class members. By the end of the course, each student will have a fuller understanding of his/her own relationship as an artist to the characters, voices, and stories he/she creates.

Class Rules:
❖ Be respectful to your teacher, classmates, and classroom materials
❖ Be prepared with class materials and homework at all times.
❖ Be positive when trying and learning new strategies and genres!

Required Materials:
❖ Composition Notebook to be used daily for quick writes and other miscellaneous ponderings. Spiral journals will not be permitted for this - pages must be sewn. This will not be used for extra paper -- loose leaf will be provided if needed in this class.
❖ Legal Notepad (of any color) to be used for drafts in progress. Final pieces will be submitted on Google Classroom - more information can be found below.
❖ Reading material of your choice. The best way to improve your writing craft is to read published writers! Students will read daily.
❖ Writing utensils will be needed each day. Additional supplies may be required as the school year progresses.
❖ Planner or agenda to keep track of due dates and daily progress goals.

Grading Standards:
Projects/Presentations 60% (published pieces, presentations)
Participation Grades 40% (practice pieces, writing workshop, quick writes)

Late Work Policy:
Late work must be submitted by the end of each three-week grading period. The penalty for late work is a thirty-point deduction (maximum grade of 70%) on the next class day and a fifty-point deduction (maximum grade of 50%), thereafter.

Google Classroom:
Students are expected to turn in assignments on Google Classroom. Classroom codes will be distributed in class. Due dates and times are automatically set - do not wait until the last minute to submit an assignment - allow time for possible computer or internet issues. I understand that life gets busy, and the writing process is messy. If you need an extension for an assignment, contact me a minimum of one day before the assignment due date. Extension requests should be e-mailed, and include a status update on the assignment and reason for the extension request (illness, family emergency, etc.).
Absences:
When you are absent, please contact me to receive your missing work. You may e-mail me or see during tutorials when you return whether you have class that day or not. School related absences (athletic, UIL, etc.) must be taken care of prior to the absence. You will receive any work you missed.

Academic Dishonesty Disclaimer:
Cheating or plagiarism of any kind will result in failure of the assignment. Plagiarism is defined as presenting someone else's work, including the work of other students, as one's own. Any ideas or materials taken from another source for either written or oral use must be fully acknowledged, unless the information is common knowledge.

- A student must not adopt or reproduce ideas, opinions, theories, graphics, or pictures of another person without acknowledgment.
- A student must give credit to the originality of others whenever:
  1. Directly quoting another person’s actual words, whether oral or written;
  2. Using another person's ideas, opinions, or theories;
  3. Paraphrasing the words, ideas, opinions, or theories of others, whether oral or written;
  4. Borrowing facts, statistics, or illustrative material; or
  5. Offering materials assembled or collected by others in the form of projects or collections without acknowledgment.

Class Website:
The class website has a plethora of information for you. Please visit the site and familiarize yourself with all the information that can be found there.
Go to: https://goo.gl/2jw0nc

Electronic Devices:
Seventh graders must leave their device in their lockers. Eighth graders must leave their device in their backpacks which will be left at the front of the classroom. There will be days when you may find it useful to bring a personal device (smartphone, laptop, tablet, etc.) to class. I will let you know when you may want to do so! Students must adhere to the district electronic usage policies outlined on pages 35-36 in the Student Handbook. For more information see the excerpt below:

For safety and instructional purposes, the district permits students to possess personal mobile telephones; however, these devices must remain turned off during instructional time, including during all testing, unless they are being used for approved instructional purposes. A student must have approval to possess other telecommunications devices such as netbooks, laptops, tablets, or other portable computers. If a student uses a telecommunications device without authorization during the school day, the device will be confiscated. The following hierarchy of consequences is imposed based upon the first, second, third, and subsequent offenses:

- 1st offense: Warning, parent notification, and parent collects the telecommunications device.
- 2nd offense: $10.00 fine is assessed; the telecommunications device is held in the principal’s office for ten calendar days and until the fine is cleared; and the parent collects the telecommunications device.
- 3rd offense: $10.00 fine is assessed; the telecommunications device is held in the principal’s office for thirty calendar days and until the fine is cleared; and the parent collects the telecommunications device.
- Subsequent offense(s): The telecommunications device is held in the principal’s office until the end of the school year and the parent collects the telecommunications device.
Take this syllabus home and return the this page by August 25.

Class Period

Student Last Name, First Name

I have read and understood all the information in this course syllabus. I will adhere to classroom and district policies. I will contact the teacher for any concerns or questions I may have this year.

Student Signature: Parent Signature:

Parents,

I want to meet the needs of your child from the very beginning of the school year. Any information you’re able to provide for me is an invaluable teaching tool and makes it that much easier and faster for me to help your child be successful and feel confident and safe. Fill out as much or as little of the survey as you want. I know the start of the school year is hectic; I greatly appreciate your time and I will keep all information confidential.

Thank you, and welcome to our community of writers!

Mrs. Erin Griffin

❖ What are your child’s strengths (not only academic)? In what is she/he most interested (subjects and otherwise)?

❖ On what academic skills does your child need to focus?

❖ What motivates your child to do his/her best work?

❖ Is your child shy, sensitive or nervous about anything I should be aware of or you would like me to know about?

❖ Is there anything your child struggles with that you would like me to know about (not only academic)?
❖ If any of your child’s former teachers have been particularly successful with them, what qualities or skills did that teacher possess that you or your child appreciated?

❖ If your child had an hour of free time, how would they most likely use that time?

❖ How much reading did your child do this summer? What kind of reading material is your child most interested in?

❖ What do you most admire about your child?

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### Parent Contact Log

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