

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Creative Writing

Mrs. Reichert

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Course Description:**

Creative writing is designed to aid students in their creative expression, as well as delivery of one's writing. Students will read and discuss articles on the craft of writing. The first quarter will focus on fiction. Students will read and evaluate the effectiveness of fiction in varying styles and genres. The second quarter will focus on poetry. Students will learn poetic vocabulary and read and interpret poems of varying styles. They will write and workshop short stories and poetry to complete a final portfolio. Students will be expected to publish their writing and deliver it to an audience.

**Course Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Create and edit original sentences.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of a well-written narrative.
- Identify the steps in creating characters, setting, and conflict.
- Explain the parts of speech and their basic functions in a sentence.
- Develop original pieces of work utilizing various literary techniques.
- Evaluate the usefulness, or lack thereof, of a source (both Internet and non-Internet).
- Understand poetry language in music (rhythm, lineation, meter, etc.).
- Organize a collection of literary works.

**Required Class Materials:**

- Pen or pencil
- Paper
- Portfolio
- Notes
- Student Tracker

**Text:**

There is no text for this course, though articles and writing samples will be used throughout the semester.

**Course Outline:**

(Subject to change due to time constraints, class population, and individual preference.)

- Why and What to Write?
- Literary Techniques and Basic Writing Skills
- The three elements of a story (characters, setting, conflict) – Endless ideas!!

- Creating Character Profiles
- Short stories
- Poetry and Music (Interpretation)
- Poetry and Music (Styles)

### **Major Assignments:**

- Free Writes – Every class will begin with five minutes of free writing. A free write is when a person writes in response to a prompt continuously. It is important to write the whole time. The idea is to just move the pen and to see where you end up.
- Participation- Much of this class is conducted as a workshop. You must participate daily in order to do average work to receive credit for participation. If you are not prepared to participate daily, drop the course immediately.
- Portfolio – An overall grade will be placed on the portfolio. Completeness is mandatory for the portfolio to receive a passing grade. Your portfolio will include all free-write exercises, many pre-writes, drafts and ideas as well as completed writing projects. Grammar, punctuation, spelling, paragraphing and other matters of polished work should be within keeping with the ideals of standard edited American English.

### **Grading:**

- Creative Writing grades are based on an accumulation of points throughout the semester.
- Free Writes and participation will be graded daily.
- Grading Scale – as stated in the Handbook: 92-100 A, 85-91 B, 77-84 C, 70-76 D, and below 70 F.
- The semester breakdown is that 85% of your final grade is your quarter grade and 15% of your final grade is your exam grade.
- Grades are updated at least once a week. Parents and students can monitor their grades via Skyward.

### **Class Policies & Procedures:**

- CHS Handbook rules and policies will be enforced.
- The class policies and procedures are best stated with one simple guideline: Respect yourself, your classmates and your teacher at all times.
  1. Be on time and prepared to work.
  2. Do not “pack up” when I am still teaching or other students are discussing. Wait to be dismissed.
  3. Please do not leave trash in the room (i.e. empty water bottles, gum wrappers).

### **Instructor Contact:**

- The best way to get a hold of me is through email ([mreichert@cusd4.org](mailto:mreichert@cusd4.org)) as I check it multiple times throughout the day.
- I am also available in my room (A110) before school (7:30-8:10) and during my prep periods by appointment or a phone call (815-694-2321).

