



WRITING I Syllabus 2017-2018 (7th Grade)

Froebel Bilingual School
Mr. Daniel Cortes, Teacher

Office Hour by Appointment Only

STUDENTS – Please keep this syllabus in your notebook; we will be referring to it during the course

I. Course Description:

In this course students will write every day and they will explore different writing techniques and styles. Writing skills will be developed through pre-writing, editing, re-writing, and critiquing. Students will also examine various styles of writing by reading writers of poetry, songs, newspaper columns, short stories, novels, plays, monologues, dialogues, haiku, reviews, and montages. Goals will be met through a variety of reading, writing, and speaking activities. Additionally, students must be willing to read aloud and share their ideas with the group. Students will be asked to critique their own work and the work of others in a positive and gentle manner. Students will research critically and/or commercially successful authors to find out their secrets to success. As a group, we will learn a great deal about each other by writing across various modes of art-in-language and describing how our writing works and what it does through various methods centering on close examination of language.

II. Course Objectives/Skills:

- Read and comprehend at grade level
- Support and challenge opinions in discussion
- Examine themes and motifs in writing
- Create and edit in a unique style using the writing process
- Respond to a text by employing personal experiences and critical analysis
- Analyze ideas, syntax, and word choice to reveal an author's purpose
- Compose in a variety of modes by developing content, employing specific forms, and selecting language appropriate for a particular audience and purpose
- Create and revise style to meet the demands of purpose, audience, context
- Utilize correct grammatical conventions in writing

III. Expectations

- This is an effort-based class: your effort, attendance, and engagement are what will cause you to grow as a writer...and your score too!
- Participation is extremely important; this includes completing all assignments, forming thoughtful responses and opinions, and speaking out in class. You are encouraged to hold and express confident opinions, but you must behave in a respectful manner at all times. All comments and feedback must be made in a constructive manner. **You will not be successful in this class if**

you are not willing to participate and/or comment on works and writings or accept comments/feedback on writings.

• We will often work on our writing together, which means you will need to become accustomed to writing **legibly** and having other students read your assignments. If a student's writing is too difficult to read, he or she will be required to **type** the assignments.

IV. Grading Policies

Students are rewarded for effort **AND** quality of work. All assignments must be turned in on time. Student absence does not change the due date, and assignments that are turned in late may lose points.

- TESTS (2) per semester
- BOOK REPORTS (2) x 50 pts. ea. per semester
- JOURNAL 1 per semester
- DAILYWORK 100 pts.
- WORKBOOK 100 pts.
- PORTFOLIO PROJECT per semester

V. Writing Portfolio

There is a Writing Portfolio component to this class; students should SAVE ALL WORK including revised drafts and final copies.

VI. Textbook:

Kemper, D., Meyer, V., & Sebranek, P. (2012). Write Source: Writing & Grammar (Grade 7). Orlando, FL: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

VII. What I Value and Expect:

- Trust in and respect for yourself and each other
- Habitual practice and effort
- Specificity and attention to detail and grammar
- Curiosity and inquisitiveness
- Critical inquiry and analysis
- Being in class (physically, mentally, and spiritually)
- Being prepared (reading texts to the point where you can discuss them or raise insightful questions about them, making deadlines, being on time)

VIII. Required Materials (MANDATORY)

Please refer to the 2017-2018 School Year Seventh Grade Supply List. Notice that in addition to the supplies listed there you'll need a **blue pen for editing**.

IX. Class Procedures & Discipline Policy

Procedures and policies concerning late assignments and make-up work:

Unexcused late work (including homework as well as major assignments) will not be accepted in this class.

In the case of an excused absence, the student must turn in assignments within two days of the absence and, also within the two-day period, must make up tests that were administered during the absence. (The student should make arrangements with the teacher.) If an assignment was given before the absence, the student is expected to send the work or turn it in on the day of his or her return to school with a written excuse.

If the student does not have access to a computer or typewriter at home, the parent should notify the teacher at the beginning of the school year so there is time to explore possible options.

The teacher will not excuse work that is late due to printer problems (no ink cartridge, etc.). The student must also bring, on or before the assignment due date, a parent note which describes the nature/circumstances of the problem.

When major technology problems occur unexpectedly (a computer crash, for example), the student may handwrite the composition neatly in black ink on paper. The student must submit a parent note of explanation along with the handwritten work. In the case of a major technology problem the evening before the due date for an assignment or project, the student may be granted a brief extension. The student must bring a parent note of explanation on or before the date the assignment is due.

Discipline Policies:

The teacher will try to work with each student in areas that need improvement. If problems persist, the teacher will notify the student's parent(s). If misbehavior continues, the teacher will submit a referral to the social worker/administration for action. Students who create severe disturbances in class will be removed immediately. Further, the teacher will support all school policies outlined in the Student Handbook and will follow the Discipline Plan required by school administration. Classroom rules include:

- Be on time. (The teacher will follow school policy.) If you are late for any reason, you must furnish a late pass from the school office, even if you have a pass from another teacher.
- Bring appropriate materials.
- Have completed homework in class. (Students will not be able to return to their lockers during class.)
- Follow procedures for unexcused absences. (See student handbook.)
- Limit requests for restroom visits to extreme emergencies.
- Refrain from speaking out in class and calling out responses. You must raise your hand.
- Leave gum and candy out of the classroom.
- Refrain from leaving seat without permission.
- Refrain from socializing and behaving in a disruptive manner.
- Cell phones are prohibited.
- Sit up during class. (It helps concentration.)
- Read and abide by rules and procedures outlined in the student regulation.

- Respect others' right to learn.

X. Behavior

1. First and foremost, you will critique the work *not the person*.
2. Treat the room, your classmates, yourself, various works, and me with respect.
3. Bring all materials to class
4. Keep evidence of all your work. This includes e-mails
5. You may not consume food and beverages in my class.

XI. Principles of Writing

1. Expert writers must first become expert readers

Students in Writing classes must become aware of the basic techniques of literary expression, including narrative strategies, genres, and aesthetics.

2. Writers must become more self-aware, craft conscious, and self-critical.

The students must learn to revise. As important as learning how to write is the ability to evaluate and rewrite.

3. Students must recognize that writing is never simply descriptive or imaginative.

Writing creatively also involves ideas, themes, questions, and arguments.

XIII. INSTRUCTIONAL PACING OVERVIEW

FIRST QUARTER

Overview of the Process - *The Writing Process: One Writer's Process, Peer Responding, Traits of Writing, Using a Rubric, Publishing Your Writing, Creating a Portfolio*

Guidelines & Models - *The Forms of Writing: Descriptive Writing and Narrative Writing*

SECOND QUARTER

Guidelines & Models - *The Forms of Writing: Expository Writing, Persuasive Writing, Response to Literature, Creative Writing, and Research Writing*

THIRD QUARTER

The Tools of Learning - *Speaking to Learn: Listening and Speaking, Making Oral Presentations*
Writing to Learn: Journals and Reading Logs, Taking Notes, Completing Assignments, Taking Classroom Tests

Basic Grammar and Writing - *Working with Words and Building Effective Sentences*

FOURTH QUARTER

Basic Grammar and Writing - *Constructing Strong Paragraph*

A Writer's Resource - *Ideas, Organization, Writing Voice, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, Presentation*

*****Subject to change*****