Ms. Meacham

Creative Writing I

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**Welcome to Creative Writing I**

This may seem a banal beginning to a creative class, but we’ll soon discover great freedom within the framework. In this class, we’ll be exploring different styles and techniques for creative expression. Students will try their hand at writing short memoirs, short stories, plays, and poetry. The year will end with a special final project. Over the course of the year, students will be encouraged to stretch beyond their comfort zones, to establish a community of writers.

Just a reminder: you must be here in order to learn and explore. Finally, you need to come to class with an open mind and a willingness to take risks.

**What will you learn?**

Quarter 1: Prose: writing and editing short stories

Reading: how to read like a writer

Quarter 2: Playwriting: how to write a one-act play

Punctuation workshop

Quarter 3: Poetry: how to write and edit poetry in a variety of styles and forms

Quarter 4: Large-scale Writing Project: how to write on the large scale. The form is student’s choice.

Independent Reading Project: reinforcing how to read like a writer but still enjoy the book.

Budget Project: how to keep track of spending as an artist and human being

**Course Materials**

You will need the following:

* A binder with notebook paper or a spiral notebook—for notes and handouts
* A writing journal—for daily prompts
* A flashdrive
* Pens and pencils

**Class Expectations and Standards**

You are expected to:

* Report to class time.
* Be seated and prepared for class when the bell rings.
* Complete all assignments on time and to the best of your ability.
* Treat yourself and others with respect.
* Refrain from talking when others are speaking or performing.
* Wear your school ID around your neck.
* Refrain from eating and drinking.
* Follow the dress code.
* Keep all electronic devices such as cell phones and i-Pods off and in your bags.
* Listen.
* Participate and have fun.

**General Class Work:**

There will be assignments almost every day in class. Some examples are as follows: reading, annotating, reviews, discussion, prewriting, first drafts, peer editing, final drafts, and performance. Most assignments will be given a graded point value. If you do not do the work, you will not get the points. Most major projects will be worth more than 100 points, but you will not pass the class if you do not do your work. This will be your choice, so you must accept the consequences. I will not be grading the quality of your writing for our daily/weekly assignments but your ability to follow the assignment, your effort to edit, and your ability to turn assignments in on time. You will also be graded on participation.

**Homework**

Because this is a creative process, you will receive the due dates for the writing assignment one unit at a time. Homework is expected at the beginning of class the day it is due. If you are absent, you are responsible to find out what homework you missed. Late homework assignments will be accepted the following day at *half* credit. Large projects lose one letter-grade per day.

**Attendance/Behavior**

Attendance is mandatory; you need to attend class in order to do well. You will receive a 50 point punctuality/attendance/participation grade every 5 weeks. The grade will reflect your participation and behavior in class as well as the following elements:

* **tardies** (-3 each unexcused tardy)
* **cuts** (-30 each cut and an automatic zero on any assignment completed/due in class)
* **cell phone infractions** (-10 each infraction)
* **Not wearing an ID** (-3 each infraction)

**Grading**

* You will be graded on a point system.
* Late papers and projects will receive one letter grade lower for each day they are late.
* Plagiarism results in a zero on the assignment.

**Grading Scale**

**A=90-100**

**B=80- 89**

**C=70-79**

**D=60-60**

**F=0-59**

**Extra Help, Questions, Concerns**

I am here to assist your learning. Just a reminder and a promise to you: my door is open.

I will talk to you as a group and individually throughout the year to make sure that we’re working together on this journey. If you ever have questions or concerns about this class, please come talk to me. If you are struggling with any of the material or the due dates, I will be happy to help. Do not sit in class and pretend to understand. In that vein, I cannot help to fix what I do not know.

If you send me an email, I will respond within 24 hours. You can also leave a note in my mailbox in the main office. Also, I am available for extra help before or after school, and during 5th period by appointment. I look forward to a successful year!

Sincerely,

Ms. Meacham

mmeacham@cps.edu

**PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT SHEET**

**Creative Writing**

Room 202 – Ms. Meacham

**Student Information**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ period \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Information**

Parent 1 Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (print)

Parent 1 Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent 1 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent 2 Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (print)

Parent 2 Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent 2 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Student/Parent Agreement***

*Creative Writing I—Ms. Meacham*

I have read the course syllabus and understand all of the policies and guidelines. As a student, I agree to adhere to the expectations set before me and understand the consequences if I do not. As a parent, I agree to the expectations set for my child and will support them in their academic endeavors.

Signature of Student Print Student Name

Signature of Parent Print Parent Name

Date

**PARENT/GUARDIAN SURVEY**

Dear Parent or Guardian,

These questions will help me get to know both you and your student better. I appreciate your honesty. Thank you!

1. What strengths does your child bring to the classroom?

2. Are there any struggles your child may have in this class? If so, please tell me about your concerns.

3. Please describe a time when your child was particularly creative, or tell a favorite story about him/her/them.

4. Is there anything else that I should know so that we can start the year on the right foot?

**Creative Writing Student Survey**

Last name:  First name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class period:  ­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Pronoun:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

You are all amazing people, and I am eager to learn more about each of you. Please help me do so by completing the following handout. I appreciate your honesty. Thank you!

1. What did you do this summer?
2. Why are you taking this class?
3. What sort of writing do you do (poetry, short stories, plays, stand-up, etc.)?
4. What was the last really good movie you saw? **OR** What’s your favorite movie of all time?
5. What are your top 5 albums, music artists, or songs of all time?
6. Do you read for fun (Novels, magazines, comic books, etc.)? What was the last good book you read?
7. How does technology play a role in your life (video games, blogs, webpages, ipod, etc.)?
8. What are you really good at?
9. Write down an interesting fact about yourself.
10. What is something I should know about you?
11. Do you have a job? If so, where and how many hours?
12. What extracurricular activities are you involved in?
13. Who is in your family?
14. What language(s) is/are spoken at home?
15. I learn the most when the teacher…
16. I learn the most when I…
17. I don’t like it when teachers…
18. After high school, I will probably…
19. My ideal job would be…