 Ms. Leaphart, 2019-20

Room 112, 324-2533

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\*I teach 0 period, so my “office hours”

when you can catch me on Teams are

1:51 pm to 2:33 (DLI period) and 2:33 to 2:50.

**Creative Writing**

Writing is a way to understand what we’ve been through, a way to share our experiences, and a way to entertain. It’s a lot of work to do it well, and it’s also a whole lot of fun. In this class we’ll explore the four main genres of Creative Writing: Poetry, Play/Screenwriting, Nonfiction and Fiction. We’ll write in response to prompts, we’ll imitate the writing of published authors, and we’ll go out on a limb and do our own things.

Creative Writing class will also be a fantastic way to get to know other people as we will come together to create own community of storytellers and poets. We will hang out around a table, drink coffee/tea, and share our writing in exchange for supportive and thoughtful responses that help all of us become stronger writers. We will write in class every day!

**Welcome to a year that will go down in the history books!** I am looking forward to all of the news things each of us will learn this year including patience, flexibility, and virus proof cleanliness. The hybrid nature of the District’s Phase 1 opening means that we’ll each spend at least half of the week engaging online. I will offer a mix of live classes/discussions, videos, online discussion forums and other platforms for submitting work and interacting with the class. If you are a Digital Learning Student, or if you’re on your off days, you’ll need to follow the Weekly Plan, which I’ll post on Teams & on my teacher site. This will tell you whether you need to login to a live Teams meeting or work more independently and submit online.

**Materials:**

* **Dedicated Creative Writing Notebook and writing utensils:** You will write in a notebook every day to respond to prompts, brainstorm and annotate. I will be checking the notebooks to see that you are participating and to offer feedback.
* **Dedicated Creative Writing Folders (digital and physical) with four section dividers (Poetry, Drama, Nonfiction, Fiction):** KEEP EVERYTHING you write!
* **A sense of humor!**

**Expectations in Creative Writing:**

Above all else, **be respectful and be responsible** I expect open-minded and kind behavior in class and on the page. We will create a group set of feedback norms that we will adhere to whenever responding to one another’s writing.

**Grades:** Your grades will be based on your participation in class discussion, your effort to respond to prompts, your willingness to take risks in class activities and on the page, your thoughtfulness in responding to peers’ writing, your completion of polished revisions for each genre of writing, and your ability to present and share your writing.

Participation (Group/collaborative writing activities & workshop comments): 20%

Daily Work (Weekly prompts, Annotations, Peer Responses): 30%

Workshop Deadlines, Polished Pieces & Presentations/Submissions: 50%

**Come to class prepared:** In order to participate, you will need to bring your notebook and a writing utensil to class every day. You will need to have copies of assigned handouts, articles, and short stories as well as your comments on those readings in order to participate.

**Homework:** For each genre of writing that we study, you will be examining a set of models/examples and also responding to prompts that help you to develop/hone your skills in that type of writing. At the end of each unit, you will then polish a piece or a collection of pieces and “publish” it in some way for a “Polished Piece” grade. This piece(s) is expected to be a revised, perfected version of something that we began in class and/or that fits the genre we’re studying; sometimes you’ll publish it by sharing it online, sometimes it will be through a reading/recording.

At least once a quarter you will be required to share a draft of something you’re working on with classmates or the entire class as part of a “workshop.”The workshops are designed to give you encouragement and feedback for improving your piece. To prepare, you will be required to read and respond to your peers’ writing.

In addition to writing, I will often assign a short story, poem, article or scene to read as a model for phenomenal writing. You will need to read these pieces and annotate them carefully to prepare for discussion on the author’s techniques.

**Absences:** Attendance and participation are critical elements of this class. Whenever possible, students should report absences to me *prior* to the missed class; Be responsible by contacting me about missed work.

**Food and Drink:** It is important to stay hydrated, so drinking water **from a container with a secure lid** is acceptable during class. It is acceptable to raise your mask to drink in class, just be sure to lower the mask right away. Otherwise, **no food in the classroom**.

