



Elementary Division

9-11 Year Old Writing

Thursdays, 9:15-12:15

As students approach the end of the elementary years, writing can feel daunting to parents and students alike. This course aims to help students move confidently into more sophisticated writing without losing joy and creativity in writing. During class sessions, students will play games to practice mechanics and writing skills. They'll work together as a class to compose pieces that put into practice important writing ideas: excellent structure, varied sentences, the use of literary devices, sensory details. Then they'll brainstorm, write, revise, edit and publish their own pieces. Students will receive supportive feedback on their work and have the opportunity to provide feedback to others.

The first part of the year will focus on creative and narrative writing: an adventure story, a tall tale, a mystery, historical fiction, and poetry. Through these projects, students will be honing their skill in narrowing a topic, using descriptive words and figures of speech, and adding details. They will be learning to vary sentence length and always practicing the mechanics and conventions of good writing, such as punctuation. The second part of the year moves into nonfiction writing with a persuasive letter, a personal narrative, a summary, response to literature, and a report. Students will be thinking about appropriate voice for various genres, varying their sentence beginnings, and paying careful attention to structure. By the end of the year, students will have grown in confidence and skill as writers and they'll have experienced the support of a community growing together.

Curriculum: Write Shop. This course focuses exclusively on the writing process and does not include separate literature study. Students will review grammar lightly but do not go into great depth with parts of speech.

Student Expectations: Students are expected to be active and attentive class participants and positive and encouraging to peers. They will have a small amount of homework to complete each week totaling around 2 hours.

Parent Expectations: Parents should expect to remind students to complete their homework and help them stay organized and come prepared for class.

Prerequisites: Students must be 9 or 10 on or by August 31, 2022 for Elementary Writing. Students who have turned 11 by this date are eligible for the next level, Junior Division Prep English.