



Elementary Division 9-11 Year Old Writing Mondays or Thursdays, 9:15-12:15

**This class may be taken for two years; the skills and projects will differ in year A and year B.*

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 and other materials. This course focuses exclusively on the writing process and does not include separate literature study. Our one-class-per-week format is structured to provide inspiration, instruction, discussion, and a feast of ideas and examples of writing as well as an authentic audience with whom to share writing.

Not Covered: This course will not teach spelling, handwriting, typing, grammar, or writing mechanics such as punctuation. Parents are expected to teach these at home.

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 are expected to teach and reinforce writing conventions, offer support and feedback during the writing process. Additionally, parents should expect to be involved daily in the at-home work required.

Prerequisites: Students must be 9 or 10 on or by August 31 for Elementary Writing. They should be able to write a complete sentence and employ age-appropriate mechanics, such as capitalization and punctuation.