***Welcome to Creative Writing I !***

Please read carefully the policies listed below, and sign your name to indicate that you understand and agree to follow them throughout the semester. A parent/guardian also needs to read and sign so that he or she knows what to expect and what is expected of you.

**Course Description:** This course is designed for the student interested in writing original poetry, plays, essays, and short stories. Students consider the elements of creativity—inspiration, form, and content—in relation to styles of representative authors. Self-criticism (close analysis), group evaluation, contest entries, and publication of students’ works are required activities.

**Our Class**: Our focus for the first nine weeks is poetry—everything about the ways we compress language to create experiences which others can share—and all of those tools that are essential to the craft for achieving that goal. We will be all about acquiring specific skills and helping each other sharpen those skills. Those skills will become the foundation for all of your writing as we add to them for each specific genre we practice, including the memoir/personal narrative, the short story, and the screenplay/drama.

**The Bennett House Rules!**

* Come to class prepared for the day’s lesson. Always bring your journal, binder w/paper, and pen to class.
* Be in your seat *before* the tardy bell rings, and begin each day’s posted writing exercise.
* Use the time before/after school and between classes to visit your locker, the restroom, student services, etc. You may not leave the room during class except in an emergency. A real one.
* Participate!Your classmates and I will welcome your positive contributions.

**Materials:**

* Three-ring binder *for this class alone* (2+ inches). We will be creating our own textbook, drawing from many sources, and you will receive a great number of handouts (holes already punched) for you.
* Journal: standard size composition book (college rule)—separate from your binder—make it a place you love to go!
* Loose leaf paper (college rule)—for anything you turn in to me—no spiral; no exceptions.
* Regular blue or black ink pen—for anything you turn in to me that is not typed

**Assessment and Evaluation:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Grading Categories | **Grading Weight** | **Approximate # of Anticipated Grades\*** |
| Homework & classwork assignments | 10% | 10-11  **\*** *subject to change at* |
| Journals | 10% | daily *teacher’s discretion* |
| Quizzes & Seminars/Workshops\* | 30% | 8-10 |
| Tests, Projects, and Written Products | 50% | 8-10 |

*\* Workshop/seminar preparation and participation: You must prepare in order to participate! (2 quiz grades)\**

**Demonstration of Mastery & Academic Recovery**: In order to give students the best possible learning experience, it is imperative that all parties are accountable for success (or failure) in the classroom.  Responsibility falls on the students, their parents, and their team of teachers.  We understand that students may struggle to master some concepts in a timely manner; our Academic Recovery Process, therefore, is accessible to all students and offered when—

* the student is attending class on a regular basis AND
* the student has given sufficient first effort on assignments AND
* the student completes recovery in a timely manner.

A grade of 7o% is the minimum score necessary for demonstrating mastery.  Teachers do not have to provide recovery opportunities for students who score above this minimum. Students who are eligible for recovery will be allowed two weeks after the grade posting date to demonstrate mastery. They must first complete a reflection/correction sheet and then meet with me to complete the recovery assignment process. Students will receive the average of the two scores (up to 70%).

**Homework:** Complete it! You need to be prepared for class in order to participate intelligently and to glean the most from it. I promise never to insult your intelligence nor waste your time or mine with “busy work.”

**Late Work:** Avoid it! Late workwill be accepted up to **1 week** after the scheduled original due date and will receive  
*no higher than* **65%** of the original grade.

**Tardiness** disrupts the flow of the class and, therefore, the learning process. I expect that you will respect the learning rights of others and be on time to class. If not, lunch or after-school detention will ensue.

**Absences:** *Please read carefully the SHS and WCPSS outlined policies in your student handbook for specific details regarding excused and unexcused absences.* I take my responsibility for teaching you seriously, and I expect you to take responsibility for your learning in the same manner. Consistent attendance is your responsibility. Missing a class means losing learning that you cannot make up simply by reading and completing assignments. You will have missed valuable class interaction, workshops, and coaching activities which are virtually impossible to make up. Please make every effort to be in class every day.

**Make-up Work:** If you must miss class, your first responsibility before our next class is to go to our class Web site to find out what you missed, including homework assignments, and download any materials that I make available there. You must also check with your **Learning Buddy** for any coaching other handouts not available digitally. Then see me to make up any missed grades or if you need further support. Work missed during an excused absence must be made up within two days to receive credit. Assignments due the day of an absence are due as soon as you return to school. I will make exceptions only in cases involving extenuating circumstances. The highest possible grade for work missed during an unexcused absence is 65%.

**Your Progress:** I will update grades in Powerschool every Friday and send progress reports home halfway (4 ½ weeks) through each quarter. Keep up with your assignments and grades; any recovery or late work acceptance has an expiration date!

**Student Conduct:** One rule of conduct reigns supreme in this class: ***Every student has a right to learn, and no other student may infringe upon that right.*** Be considerate and support each other. **Homecourt** rules!

**Integrity** is also a choice that is paramount to your academic success. I do not tolerate unauthorized assistance (cheating) on any assignments or assessments, including homework, whether you are the giver or receiver. Also, per WCPSS **plagiarism** is “the intentional or unintentional copying of the language, structure, or idea of another and representing it as one’s own work. . . . Any student who engages in or attempts to engage in cheating, plagiarism, falsification, violation of software copyright laws, or violation of computer access shall be subject to disciplinary action: short-term suspension not to exceed five (5) days/possible long-term suspension with aggravating factors.”

Remember that trust, once broken, is one of the most difficult things to earn back. Besides, if you’re cheating, you’re missing the whole point of being here.

**WCPSS/SHS Dress Code:** Your primary job here at school is to learn, so dress for the job. Students who take time from the rest of the class and from their own learning to deal with dress code issues will make up that lost time in lunch- or after-school detention.

**Important Note:** I believe that every student can succeed and thrive here, and I will do everything within my power to make that goal possible. If you are having difficulty understanding anything, *please ask for help as soon as possible!* I will gladly work with you on an individual basis. My after-school support hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:30–4:00 pm.

I truly look forward to working with you this semester!

**Important Addendum—Absenteeism:** If you are absent the day a major assignment is due, you are required either to make it digitally accessible to me or have a hard copy sent to the office *before* class time that day. I will make exceptions *only* in cases of extreme emergencies.

Mrs. Jennifer Bennett

English & Web Development

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Web Site: [spartanweb.org/jbennett](http://spartanweb.org/jbennett)

*I have read and agree to uphold the above policies.* Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Pd.\_\_\_\_

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Student Signature Parent/Guardian Signature