

Creative Writing

Instructor: Ms. Tichacek, Room 222

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Office Hours: Period 2

General Course Information

Welcome to Creative Writing! The purpose of this class is to develop each individual's creativity, originality, and style through the writing of journal entries, stories, poetry, autobiographical writing, reading, and other miscellaneous creative writing activities.

Course Materials

Every day, students should bring their Chromebook and charger, headphones that plug into a Chromebook, an independent reading book, and a writer's notebook that feels like "you."

Performance Expectations

Each student in the class will progress in developing his/her writing style as far as possible in a trimester's time. I look for progress, growth, and change from each one of you. Along with developing your own personal style of writing, you will also develop skills in evaluating the quality of creative writing through reading and listening to the writing of others. Work will be shared through 1) the teacher reading selected works; 2) students reading their own works and others' works aloud; 3) student writing posted on the bulletin board.

Student Expectations

- We are all fellow classmates who enjoy writing. No one will disturb anyone who is working on individual projects. We will respect one another's work, whether it is read aloud or posted on the bulletin board. Class time will be used for working on the ASSIGNED ACTIVITIES. Sleeping, gossiping, eating, and distracting others are not appropriate activities.
- WORK SHOULD BE ORIGINAL, which is one of the reasons that the teacher looks over work in progress. Remember that LUHS has an Academic Integrity Policy (Student Handbook). Any work believed to be someone else's or AI-generated will result in an **automatic zero**.
- No cell phones, smartwatches, or Bluetooth headphones are allowed during class, per school policy. The consequences will follow the LUHS electronics policy. Manage yourself carefully.
- You must be in your seat with the proper class materials when the bell rings. Otherwise, I will mark you as tardy.
 - No passes the first or last ten minutes of class (no fly zone). Only sign into the attendance kiosk when you are ready to stay in the classroom. If you sign in, leave, and come back after the bell rings, you will be marked as tardy.

Grading Plan

Grades will be calculated on a total points basis. The scale is as follows:

93-100 = A	77-79 = C+	60-62 = D-
90-92 = A-	73-76 = C	0-59 = F
87-89 = B+	70-72 = C-	
83-86 = B	67-69 = D+	
80-82 = B-	63-66 = D	

Grades are based on daily work (10-30 pts. each) and four to five major projects (150-200 pts. each). Major projects will include an autobiography, a short story, a children's story, and a poetry book. The final project IS the trimester exam. I do not compare one student's work with another's. Rather, I consider whether the work is submitted on time and whether it meets the criteria of the assignment to the best ability of the student.

Late/Missing Work Policies

For pre-approved absences, you will receive one make-up day for every day you are gone. **Field trips and sporting events ARE NOT included in this, per the LUHS Student Handbook.** Late daily work will receive point deductions. You may complete a missing project up until the next major project. After that, you will receive a zero and cannot earn that grade back. **Communicate** with me early and often about obstacles to your work completion! Nine out of ten times, we can usually work something out.

Independent Reading

Part of this course will focus on **choice** reading. Why? First, I want nothing more than for you to rediscover a joy/appreciation for reading that maybe you lost somewhere along the way. We will have some class time set aside for that. But also, simply put, good writers are good readers. Writers notice particularly fine sentences; they examine how plot elements work well (or not) in a story; they notice how characters are painted by the author.

The bottom line: great writers are critical consumers of writing, and then they apply it to their own writing. In Creative Writing, you will have the opportunity to read freely and widely with an eye toward developing your own writing style and voice.

Other Information

Creative Writing allows a lot of class time for individualized work on projects and help from the teacher. Please take advantage of this opportunity. Your parents or guardians can reach me any time via my voicemail (356-5252, ext. 2220) or email (tichacek@lakelandunion.org).

Creative Writing offers you an opportunity for creativity, not only in writing but also through the use of hands-on activities involving artistic talents. I always find this a very exciting and fun class to teach. I want all of you to know that I treat your work with confidentiality, and I will always respond to the various projects you write with comments, in addition to a numerical score.

LET'S ALL HAVE A REALLY GOOD TRIMESTER!!