

## Fifth Grade Writing Syllabus 2011-2012

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### Course Description

The study of writing in 5th grade is part of a spiraling curriculum in which students receive explicit instruction in narrative, expository, informational, procedural, and poetic writing. Students are expected to live the life of a writer, keeping a notebook and writing both at school and at home. In school, students take part in a writing workshop, in which they gather and develop ideas, draft, revise, edit, and publish their writing. Writing Workshop begins with a brief, explicit mini-lesson that teaches a new writing strategy. Students write independently, applying the strategy taught as well as utilizing other writing strategies already in their repertoire. During independent writing time, the teacher holds one-on-one conferences with students to support individuals, meet specific needs, and help students reach toward their intentions in writing. Workshop ends with a short share session. The study of vocabulary, spelling, mechanics, and conventions is embedded within the writing process. Students are guided to discover the generalizations (rules) of word meaning, spelling, mechanics, and conventions and apply what they learn to their writing.

### Benchmarks

Engage in mini-lessons and attempt the strategies taught.  
Generate ideas and develop topics appropriate to the writing genre unit of study.  
Use revision strategies in an attempt to improve the meaning of the piece of writing.  
Use editing strategies and knowledge of grammar, usage, and spelling to improve the meaning of the piece of writing.  
Engage in the writing process with increasing independence as the year progresses.

### Preparation for Class/ Course Materials

Writer's Notebook - travels back and forth for writing at home and at school  
*Building Vocabulary from Word Roots (Level 5)*  
*Advanced Words I Use When I Write*  
Assorted mentor texts will be distributed as needed.

### Methods of Instruction

Mini-lessons (demonstration, exploration, study of mentor texts)  
Conferencing: one-on-one with teacher so instruction is specific for the individual  
Strategy groups: small group instruction for students with the need for a particular writing strategy  
Share  
Partner Work

### Assessment

The writing workshop allows for constant and ongoing evaluation. Rubrics for each writing unit of study will help students understand expectations and requirements. Writer's

Notebooks will be assessed every other week by each student and the teacher. The instructor will assist students in setting reasonable goals for growth during regular writing conferences.

Students will also be assessed periodically on their level of engagement during mini-lessons and independent writing times. Vocabulary, spelling, mechanics, and use of conventions will be assessed in notebooks and in each published piece of writing. (Refer to *Middle School Student/Parent Handbook* for the school policy on late work.)

#### Projected Course Schedule

Writing meets for 70 minutes periods three times a week and for 45 minutes on Friday.