

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Period \_\_\_\_\_

Creative Writing, Winter 2017-18  
Tom Cantwell, Room 504  
cantwell@4j.lane.edu

### **Welcome to Creative Writing!**

I am very excited to teach this class at SEHS for a second year. Last year's classes produced some amazing writing in a supportive environment, and I look forward to more of the same this year. I am an aspiring writer myself. I hold an MFA in Creative Writing, I've published ten short stories in literary journals, and I am working on several book ideas. I anticipate our classroom becoming a dynamic environment for exploring the writing process. It should be a great twelve weeks.

### **Instructional Access Time**

Wednesdays, 3:15-4:00

By appointment

### **Course Description**

Creative Writing is a trimester-long writing course consisting of fiction, creative non-fiction, poetry, and alternative forms. Topics of study include structure, points of view, voice, tone, word choice, and imagery. Students will read selected texts and also have opportunities to choose their own texts while writing original samples. The class will be conducted using both the direct instruction model and the critical workshop model. Students will learn from the texts, guest speakers, the instructor, and each other. Students will revise and submit their best work to literary journals and choose which pieces to include in their own literary "zines." I am also hoping to compile everyone's best work in a complementary class anthology.

### **Materials Needed**

Students will need a notebook designated for this class. This can be a classic spiral notebook with college-ruled lines. Pockets would be helpful for loose papers, unless you already have a binder system for that. Alternatively, students are welcome to bring their own laptops to class for daily writing work. School laptops will be provided for typing final drafts. You'll want to figure out what the best way is to move digital files back and forth between school and home, if that is an option.

### **Grading**

50% - Practice – Assignments, reflections, outlines, rough drafts, editing sheets, etc.

50% - Proof – Final drafts

Grades will be determined using a standard point system and letter grades tied to the following percentages: A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, F = 59% or less.

Appropriate modifications and accommodations will be made for identified special needs.

All work should be turned in on time, unless it is due to an excused absence, in which case it must be made up promptly according to the student handbook. Missing work will be entered as zero points. Late work may or may not be accepted, at the discretion of Mr. Cantwell. Do not expect late work to be graded in a timely manner; late work gets graded late!

Plagiarism (the use of another person's work, ideas, or wording without attribution) will result in loss of points and possible disciplinary action. Do your own work!

I will post grades on StudentVue/ParentVue, the district's online grading system, every week or two. I maintain a class website that I will update on Mondays with my best guess for the week ahead. Since things change depending on student progress, a daily agenda will be recorded on the front white board. The "CW - Documents" page of my website will have relevant links and printable versions of important handouts. Here is my site, which is linked from the SEHS homepage: <http://blogs.4j.lane.edu/cantwell/>.

### **Classroom Expectations**

- Be on time – in your seat and ready to work when the bell rings
- Be prepared – organized notebook/binder, completed work, reading text, writing tools
- Be on task – independently or when contributing to group and class discussions
- Be nice – The Platinum Rule: do unto others as they would have you do unto them
- Put away and silence your electronic devices – unless you have specific permission

Another way of looking at it:

- Does what I'm doing help or hinder my learning?
- Does what I'm doing help or hinder other students' learning?
- Does what I'm doing help or hinder the teacher's ability to teach?

Consequences for not following classroom expectations will be based on frequency and severity and may include verbal warning, time out of the room, detention, parent contact, referral to counselor and/or office, and report card comments. Upon arrival, students should lodge their phones in my "Cell Phone Hotel." Phones out without permission will be taken for the day.

### **I look forward to working with you!**

Parents and guardians, today I sent you an e-mail using our district communication system, so if you didn't receive that, we'll have to get it straightened out through the office. If you have any questions or concerns, please e-mail ([cantwell@4j.lane.edu](mailto:cantwell@4j.lane.edu)) or call (541-790-8038). Please sign below.

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_