Creative Writing
“Writing is the painting of the voice.” – Voltaire
Ms. Feher (C-4) – feherk@rcschools.net

**Welcome to creative writing! In this class we will explore the world, our hearts, and the minds of others. You must leave fear at the door along with judgements and skepticism. This is a class that celebrates the human voice, the story within us all.**

**Course Description**
Creative writing focuses on multiple genres and modes of writing. We will study the masters and then practice our own writing skills by first modeling and then exploring our styles and voices. Everyone will read, write, and share!

**Reading**
Reading will differ in length and genre. To be successful, you must commit yourself to reading all the assigned texts. One cannot be a writer without studying others and their craft. You will also be required to engage in some outside reading. Each week will have an allotted amount of in-class reading time, but you must make time in your life to continue reading outside of class. No great writer ever existed without first being a reader.

**Writing**
Be ready to write, obviously! We will write in class, and you will need to engage in writing outside of class in order to have many different pieces to work with. Your goal should be to fill up your notebook by the end of the semester. Write everything. Try it all out, poetry, story, narrative, stream of consciousness, etc.

**Writing Process**
In addition to in-class writing, you may need to work on more extensive pieces outside of class. Just like in all other forms of writing, you will pre-write, draft, revise, and edit. You will be required to share your work with your peers in order to receive constructive criticism. However, you do not have to share everything. Just take note, if you want to grow as a writer, sometimes you have to take a risk and put your writing out there.

**Author’s Chair**
Each student will be required to sit in the author’s chair at least twice by December. This means sharing a working (not necessarily finished) piece of writing. It will be a time to celebrate not a time to receive constructive criticism.

**Classroom Principals**
In addition to the rules in the Riverdale student handbook, the following principles apply specifically in our classroom. In a class like creative writing, these principles are fundamental to the success of our class.

1. Be aware of others, and be kind.
2. Share your voice, your story.
3. Believe your writing matters.
4. Offer ideas about others and their writing.
5. Be willing to struggle a little.

**Consequences**
When a rule is broken or a principle not followed, the student will receive warnings, lunch detention, parent contact, and finally sent to a principal or the dean. These consequences may be by-passed in some circumstances per the discretion of the teacher. Be on Time for Class. Period. If you are late, sit down and get to work. DO NOT whine at me and shower me with excuses. Just move on and get to work.

**Be Respectful to Others**
Disrespect will not be tolerated! Each student and teacher in this classroom will be treated with respect at all times. Each student and teacher will be asked to treat everyone else with respect.

**Be Prepared to Work and Have Fun**
You are to have the following items in class daily

 Composition notebook/journal
 pencil and different color pens
 notebook with Creative Writing tab
 text assigned for the day
 an open and awake mind to all texts and the ideas that will be discussed

**Procedures**

**Beginning of class**
 Class will begin each day with a Write into the Day.

**Grading**
Grades will be determined through a points system. Points will be allotted depending on the difficulty and duration of the assignment. We will follow the grading scale per the student handbook.

**Plagiarism and Cheating**
Plagiarism is attempting to present someone else’s ideas or work as your own. The beauty of creative writing is that your story is just that – yours! There is no wrong answer when we consider creativity. You should not even feel tempted to plagiarize, but if you do, be prepared to face the consequences of a failing grade.

**Make-Up Work**
You are expected to attend class. However, make-up work can be found online. You are 100% responsible for make-up work. DO NOT ask about missed work at the beginning of class. Check the website and you can usually find everything you need.

**Hall Passes**
You are almost adults and should be able to handle restroom breaks. You may not take your phone during a restroom break for many reasons. Only 1 person may use the restroom at a time and you need to take the pass. You may not use the restroom during direct instruction.

**Electronics**
Phones will be checked-in at the start of class on the table. Attendance may be taken from this table. You will be assigned a laptop. You may only use the laptop issued to you. You will be responsible for respecting this device and if you damage the device you will be financially responsible for the repair or replacement of the device.

**Open Communication**
My door is always open.

This is creative writing and not meant to be a stress to your daily life, but it should also be taken seriously. I hope that you have fun and learn to trust the voice inside you!

(Please sign and return FOR A GRADE!)

YES! I have read and understand the classroom rules and policies.

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Student Name Parent/Guardian Name

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Student Signature Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent Phone Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent E-Mail Addresses \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Any Parent Comments \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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