



Deer Valley Unified School District No. 97

21100 N 27th Avenue Phoenix AZ 85027 ❖ DEER VALLEY MIDDLE ❖ 623-445-3300 ❖ 623-445-3380 (Fax) ❖ dvms.dvUSD.org

8th Grade Creative Publishing/Journalism Deer Valley Middle School Syllabus 2013-2014

Teacher: Ms. Beth Fay
Room: 309
Prep: 6th Period (2:02-3:00p.m.)

E-mail: Beth.Fay@dvUSD.org
Voice Mail: (623)445-3375
Website: <http://dvmsfaylanguagearts.weebly.com>
Reminder Text Messaging Service: (623)738-0513/message:@b34bf

Course Description

Welcome to Creative Publishing! This class is designed around writing and will emphasize the inverted pyramid newspaper story format. In this class you will be using a computer to improve your typing speed, analyze newspapers for content, conduct research including interviews, and create documents including a newsletter. You will watch videos, have discussions, and learn to think about journalism and how it pertains to your "REAL LIFE". I hope that you enjoy the class!

Course Objectives

Main Course objectives include, but are not limited to: nonfiction writing, access and use information from reading, basic computer knowledge, computer terminology and computer rules and guidelines. The student will accomplish these objectives using:

- Keyboarding
- Word Processing
- Publishing
- Printed publications

Materials/Supplies

Text Book: There is no textbook for this class. Every assignment will be put into the "inbox" or emailed.

Online Resources: Lesson plans-www.pjnicholson.com; Typing program-www.typingweb.com.

Supplies: Each student needs to bring their spiral notebook (interactive student notebook "ISN") to class every day. Classroom sets of pencils, paper, markers, crayons, colored pencils, and glue will be provided as necessary. Students are permitted to bring in their own personal supplies. Families are welcome to donate any materials to class that they wish to share (i.e. paper towels, glue, tissue, markers, colored pencils, pens, lined paper, highlighters, etc.)

Progress Reports

Progress reports are available on PowerSchools. Progress reports will go home on every third Friday for all students, and every Friday for "D" and "F" students with the expectation that students will attend after school tutoring on Tuesday and Thursday.

PowerSchools Access Information

Parents/Guardians who do not have a login code for their child can get one at the front office. An I.D. will be required to receive your password. The PowerSchools' site allows parents/guardians and students to access the student's grades, attendance, and other information. The web address is: <http://ps.dvUSD.org/public/>

Grading Policy

Standards-based grading practices will be used to indicate academic performance solely related to 8th Grade English Language Arts Common Core Standards. Students will receive tutoring and retake any assessment on any standard they have not mastered. Retakes and late work must be submitted two weeks prior to the end of each quarter. Additionally, students are expected to complete daily formative or practice assignments to reinforce skills and concepts learned in class, but will not always be factored into a student's final grade. There will be no opportunities for extra credit.

Category		Percentages	
Assignments	70%	A	90-100%
Tests/Quizzes	20%	B	80-89%
Typing	10%	C	70-79%
		D	60-69%
		Incomplete	49%

Nearly every assignment will be completed in class, and there will be little homework. Because of that, being productive during class is a necessity so the students will not have to finish the assignment at home. All students need to stay on task while in class. Assignments will be turned in to the in box or email at the end of class the day it is due. Students will receive tutoring and retake any assessment they have not mastered. Effort is rewarded. Please come to me if you are really trying, but still struggling! ***Missing or incomplete work will be recorded as a 49% (4.9 out of 10). Students may turn in missing or incomplete work at the teacher's discretion for full credit up until the last two weeks of the quarter. Zeros will be avoided as much as possible. Zeros are considered counterproductive towards student achievement on a standards based grading scale**

Attendance and Make-Up Work Policy

Whenever you return from being absent, you will need to check the "What did I Miss?" folder. You have as many days as you were absent to turn in the work for up to full credit. You will need to get the notes from a fellow classmate.

Teacher Tutoring Times

Teacher is available every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:10pm-4:10pm for extension of learning. *(Tuesdays and Thursdays: Bus transportation is provided at 4:15.)*

Communication

Please contact the teacher for any student concerns. It is crucial that teachers, parents, and students maintain open lines of communication. Contact information is provided at the top of this page. Email is the best way to communicate with the teacher. Please refer to my website for all information needed for this course.

Classroom Behavior Expectations

- ❖ Participate in class
- ❖ Respect everyone and everything in the classroom and computer lab at all times
- ❖ Absolutely no food, drinks, or gum allowed in computer lab; water bottles in Room 309 only
- ❖ Always be prepared for class and complete assignments on time
- ❖ School Rules, such as dress code and conduct, are always in effect

I look forward to working with you and your child. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns

Sincerely,
Ms. Fay



The Deer Valley Unified School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. For any inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies contact the Superintendent's Department, 20402 N. 15th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85027. 623.445.5000.

I have enclosed a letter for parents to fill out. I would love to know more about your child, and anything you feel I should know is greatly appreciated. I want to be able to support your child. I have also included some lines for your contact information, which will help me make positive contacts with you.

Dear Ms. Fay,
What I want you to know most about my child is.....

My contact information is:

Parent Email _____

Student Email _____

(this is the easiest way for me to contact you!)

Parent Name _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Movie/Video Clip Permission Slip

During the school year the Creative Publishing team may show movies or video clips rated PG and PG-13. We would like your permission for your child to be able to watch these.

Please check two of the following, thank-you!

_____ I will allow my student to watch PG rated movies.

_____ I will not allow my student to watch PG rated movies.

_____ I will allow my student to watch PG-13 rated movies.

_____ I will not allow my student to watch PG-13 rated movies.

Student name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

After School Tutoring Permission Slip

As stated earlier, students will need to attend tutoring if they do not show mastery in content, or if they have a grade of a "D" or "F". Tutoring will also be an opportunity to extend learning. After school tutoring on Tuesday and Thursday is available from 3:10-4:10pm.

_____ I will allow my student to attend after school tutoring. My child will get home by:

_____ 4:15pm activity bus _____ parent pick up _____ walk home

_____ I will allow my student to attend after school tutoring.

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

3:15-4:15pm phone number: _____

*******Please return this paper by Friday, August 16, 2013.**