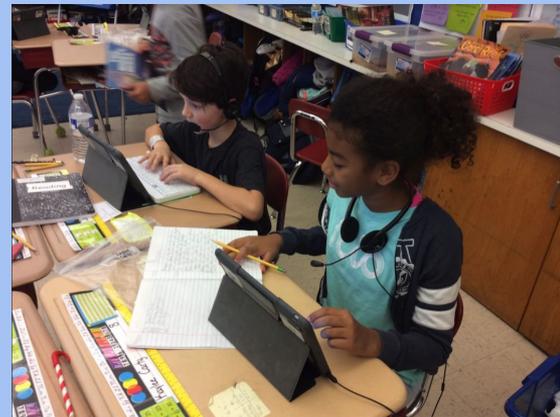




The Parent's Guide to *Writing Workshop*

Teaching Writers not Writing
Julian Curtiss School 2017-2018



Slicing: Let's write together!

A slice of life is something that happened over the course of a day that stayed with you.

What's a slice?

A story about a small snippet of the day, a poem, a description of a setting, a memory

What's *not* a slice?

A book review, an informational text, a list that doesn't tell a story, a text that doesn't tell a story.

Inspire any of your family to initiate the ritual of writing together in much the same way we read together.

Writing Workshop to the Rescue!

In Writing Workshop, students...

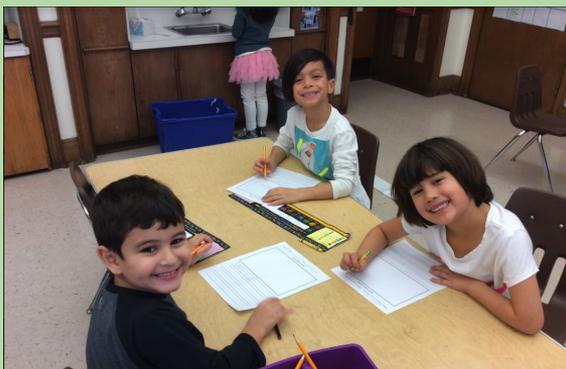
- learn they have stories worth telling, information worth sharing, and they can use their writing to persuade others and affect change.
- self-select their topics, leading to independence.
- write for extended periods of time, leading to increased stamina.
- collaborate with peers for feedback and assistance. (*Teacher as coach*)
- participate in mini-lessons where the teacher offers instruction on a writing strategy or technique to try.
- make choices about how they learn and present new knowledge (*personalized learning*)



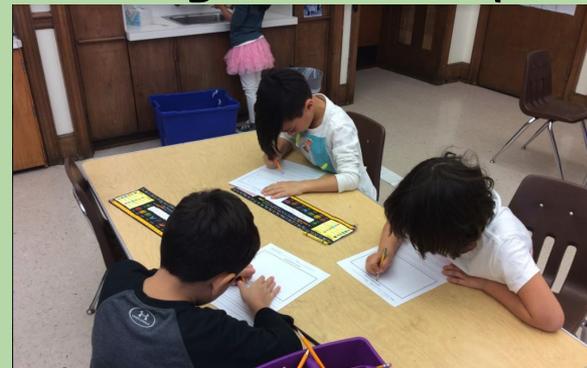
What happens in my child's class during writing workshop?



Mini Lesson



Independent Writing



Revising



Conference



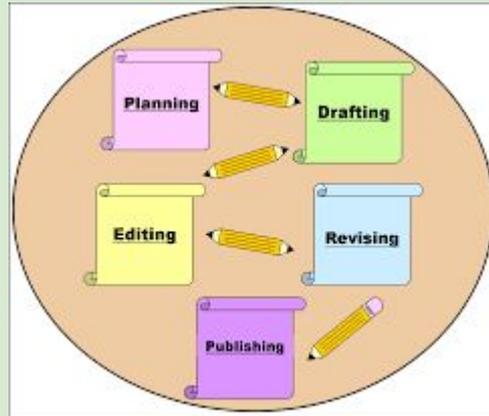
Small Group

Writing Process:

The writing process rarely happens in that straight line! Writers often start drafting, then realize they need more research. Drafting is quick. Writers spend a lot of time revising and then editing as they go, then maybe draft some more. Revise and edit again!

When the piece is as good as it gets, the writer publishes! Digital tools support all aspects of the writing process.

Writers are using such tools as: Educreations, Google Docs, Adobe video, digital information sources and more. The possibilities are endless with 1 to 1 devices!



Writing: So Much More Than Just Conventions

- The first time you view your child's work, you might want to only discuss the misspelled words or mistakes you see with punctuation.
- Discuss the message your child is trying to convey and say something positive about what your child has attempted.
- If your child chose to use the word "anxious" but spelled it wrong, you can still praise their attempt to use a more sophisticated word than "sad".
- If kids think spelling correctly is the most important thing about writing, they won't take chances with more interesting and precise words. We encourage risk-taking in writing!

How Can I Help My Child Grow as a Writer?



- Tell family stories. Storytelling is a great way to help students internalize story structure.
- Encourage reading and love of words! Reading widely helps develop writing skill.
- If something interesting or funny happens, encourage your child to write about it!
- Encourage reading across genres and forms- magazines, newspapers, blogs, picture books, chapter books, graphic novels.
- Play word games like Scrabble or Words with Friends and show interest in learning new words, too.
- Have lots of writing tools available- pencils, pens, colored pencils, markers, and access to online writing/blogging.

Great blog with ideas for writing at home: [Two Writing Teachers: Ways to Involve Caregivers in Writing at Home](#)

What can I ask my child's teacher about my child as a writer?

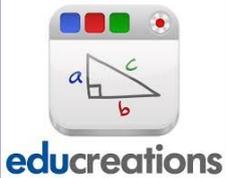
- What type of growth have you seen this year so far?
- What is my child's writing goal right now?
- What can I do at home to support my child?



What can I ask my child about their own Personalized Learning?

- When were you your happiest today?
- What was the best thing that happened at school today? What was the most challenging?
- How did you help someone today?
- Tell me three ways you used a pencil today?
- Tell me three ways you used your device today?
- What is your strategy for a great day tomorrow (Be Here, Be Safe, Be Honest, Care for Self and Others, Let Go and Move on)?

Break Out Groups

K-1	Mrs. Iannazzo	 The logo for Educreations, featuring a white square with a grey border and a window-like header with three colored buttons (blue, red, green). Inside the square is a right-angled triangle with sides labeled 'a', 'b', and 'c'. Below the square, the word 'educreations' is written in a blue, lowercase, sans-serif font.
2-3	Mrs. Schnefke	 The logo for Adobe Spark Video, consisting of a black rounded square with a yellow border. Inside the square are two yellow quotation marks and three white curved lines representing sound waves. Below the square, the text 'Adobe Spark Video' is written in a black, sans-serif font.
4-5	Dr. Blomberg	 The logo for Google Docs, featuring a blue document icon with a white folded corner and three horizontal white lines. Below the icon, the word 'Google' is written in its multi-colored font, and the word 'docs' is written in a blue, lowercase, sans-serif font.