



Shakopee Area Catholic School
Writing Standards and Benchmarks
Grade Level: 8

Writing Skills

- ▶ The student will employ a wide range of ideas.
 - Brainstorm ideas for prewriting
 - Generate lists of self-knowledge or suggestions given by teacher

- ▶ The student will apply different organizational strategies in their writing.
 - Use a variety of graphic organizers
 - Draft a rough copy
 - Distinguish dialogue and the various types of direct and indirect quote and practice the techniques of writing spoken words
 - Conduct interviews with adults and summarize the response
 - Define what a persuasive essay is, plan a topic
 - Organize a narrative essay from start to finish
 - Write out a descriptive essay, plan and work with the structure of a topic sentence
 - Explore different lists of topics to compare and contrast, find differences and similarities between them and outline their essay
 - Generate a character with creative writing, using verbal and non-verbal communication and present to the class
 - Research a topic and present the final paper using Thea Holtan as a resource
 - Compose a simple friendly letter
 - Communicate with a business as a good consumer of the society by constructing a business letter and asking for feedback
 - Create a simple resume with basic skills
 - Present a research-based speech to inform and defend, using personal speaking processes
 - Write in response to literature to describe an initial impressions of a text, connecting knowledge from a text with personal knowledge and reflections
 - Reflect weekly in a life book, using writing prompts given by the instructor, or creating their own topics

- ▶ The student will express appropriate voice in their writing.
 - Analyze the audience and write towards that audience

- ▶ The student will create pictures with their writing using effective word choice.
 - Figure different forms of modifiers - adjectives, predicate adjectives, proper adjectives, degrees of comparison, adverbs, positioning, degrees of comparison, negatives
 - Recognize and use prepositions and the three kinds of verbals

- ▶ The student will examine the fluency of their sentences in written work.
 - Explore different varieties of nouns and verbs with placement in a sentence
 - Learn how modifiers can make sentences more exact, use modifiers to combine sentence and give sentences more variety, their proper placement in sentences, and their use in comparisons, while avoiding double negatives
 - Analyze the structure of simple, compound, and complex sentences and correct sentence fragments and run-ons
 - Discover prepositions and prepositional phrases, using them as modifiers, choosing the right preposition, participles, participial phrases, gerunds, gerund phrases, infinitives, infinitive phrases, combining sentences and phrases

- ▶ The student will apply Standard English conventions.
 - Distinguish capitalization in prose as well as in special cases such as place names, titles, letters, quotations
 - Use proper punctuation - different uses for commas- words, phrases, clauses, introductory words, introductory phrases, introductory clauses, interrupters, direct address, appositives; colons and semicolons; quotation marks -direct quotes, indirect quotes, short works, apostrophes -possessive, plural and contractions, end marks, hyphens, dashes, and parenthesis
 - Examine the correct way to display dates, addresses, and letters
 - Learn the importance of underlining long works, abbreviations and numbers

- ▶ The student will present their writing in diverse formats.
 - Oral presentation- group or self
 - Project presentation – poster, puzzle or letter form
 - Microsoft Word, or Word processing
 - Handwritten on loose-leaf paper or in life book
 - Different art mediums to create their characters
 - Note cards for speech presentation