JH Composition I Class

Dear Juniour High Students,

We are thrilled to be partnering with your parents to lead you through composition this year. It is significant that Our Lord is referred to as The Word. In His Word, He writes with intentionality, intending to be understood. As we study composition, we are aiming to reflect His character in our use of words and communication.

Throughout the course, students will have short pointed daily readings accompanied by thoughtful assignments. You will analyze real writing models and are encouraged to develop their own voice. The purpose of this program is to teach you careful expression, not just process, highlighting the depth of thought that goes into writing. We ask your parents to be available for you to help you think through ideas, especially since this writing curriculum is quite different from the program that co-op had used for the past several years.

This composition class will be a graded course, with students’ final grades based on the following 2 components:

Character – 40 percent of your grade will be based on your work ethic demonstrated throughout the year

* Assignments handed in on time
* Homework completed (especially important since skills in homework build foundation for subsequent assignments)
* Class attendance (prompt, prepared, and participatory)

## Competency - 60 percent of your grade will be based on demonstration of skill based on lessons in the curriculum

* There will be 5 written assignments
  + Due Nov 6 - Three-paragraph essay with one source (to assess baseline skills)
  + Due Dec 11 - The Persuasive Essay (includes thesis, supporting arguments, and a refutation)
  + Due Feb 12 - The Personal Narrative (focuses on storytelling techniques like setting and pacing)
  + Due March 12 - The Crafted Narrative (that allows for creative freedom and thoughtfulness in building character)
  + Due April 30 - The Short Story (emphasizing depth in telling a story)
* A grading rubric will be shared with you prior to your papers being due that will focus on:
  + Content (what they say – depth of ideas, analysis, and support)
  + Clarity (how they say it - organization, flow, and coherence)
  + Conventions (mechanics – grammar, spelling, and punctuation)

At any point in the course, please feel free to reach out to Mrs. Simone Hagen or Mrs. Leah Nissly for clarification or assistance.