

Rambam Day School
Syllabus for Writing Classes, Grades 1-8
Fall, 2009

Dear Parents,

I hope your child will become a fluent, confident writer in my classes this year.

I'll be offering many narrative writing assignments—fictional and from personal experience. I believe every child can be a strong storyteller. So your children will write fairy tales, legends, poems and descriptive stories in class this year.

Also we'll do expository writing—writing that explains how to do something. And students in grades 4 and over will do persuasive writing, writing with a point of view--and sometimes, they'll debate. We'll also learn to write personal letters and try writing as journalists. We'll learn grammar rules as we revise and edit writing samples. I'll also hold spelling bees--with prizes.

One more thing: I'd like students to become enthusiastic about writing and read their work aloud to the class. Already, I know that Rambam has many gifted, young writers.

Best wishes,
Lanie Peterson
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Goals for Grades 1-3

To understand the sequence of a story and write the beginning, the middle and the end.
To understand how to create a narrative story, a descriptive article and an expository article.
To know how to write a personal letter.

Goals for Grades 4-8

To create various forms of writing: narrative, expository, descriptive and persuasive writing as well as fantasy, autobiography and journalism.
To learn the format for writing a personal letter and a business letter.
To learn strategies for writing--creating an outline, writing drafts, revising, publishing.

Resources include:

Briggs, Raymond, Jim and the Beanstalk, Penguin Illustrated, 1999. New York.

Calkins, Lucy McCormick, The Art of Teaching Writing, Heinemann, Portsmouth, N.H., 1994.

Kemper, Dave et al, Write on Track., Houghton Mifflin Co Wilmington, Mass., 2000.

Kemper, Dave et al; Writers Express A Handbook for Young Writers, Thinkers, and Learners; Houghton Mifflin Col., Wilmington, Mass. 2000.

Kipling, Rudyard; The New Illustrated Just So Stories, published by Doubleday; New York; 1952.[]

Paragraph Writing Grades 2-4, Evan-Moor Educational Publishers, Monterey, CA; 2008.

Savannah Morning News, Savannah, Ga, 2009. Selected articles