“Art is fire plus algebra.”

*–Jorge Luis Borges*

Creative Writing II

Sarah McGuire

6th Period, B229

(434) 823-8700

[smcguire@k12albemarle.org](mailto:smcguire@k12albemarle.org)

CARE

*If you need to meet with me, let me know in advance. I’ll do my best to find a time that works for us.*

Class Goals

* **Provide you with time to write!** It’s difficult to find time to write while maintaining a full class schedule. I want you to have time in class to just write.
* **Discover your writing strengths and weaknesses.** I want you to discover what you do well and learn how to play to that.
* **Learn how to critique.** I want you to learn how to give feedback that is appropriate to the project and helpful to the person receiving feedback.
* **Learn how to revise based on critique.** I want you to learn what to do with feedback, emotionally and practically.
* **Learn how to choose, edit, and present material in *The Myriad*, our literary magazine.**

Materials

* 4 one-subject notebooks (1 for each quarter)
* 1 three-ring binder for holding class handouts and your own work
* A way of moving your work! (Jump drives, Dropbox accounts, and Google docs are all acceptable. You need a way to keep track of your work between here and home! )

Attitudes to bring to class

* Be daring in writing and revision.
* Be humble.
* Be gracious to yourself and others.

Class Expectations

* When you are given free time, I expect you to use it for the assignment. This is not a place for you to work on other classwork.
* Be respectful to your fellow writers. No ridicule, disdain, or unpleasantness when talking about them or their work.
* Throw yourself into this! Your work is worth the effort.

Grades

**Final assignments–turning in your portfolio: 40%**

We’ll develop specific portfolios based on the goals you set.

**Classwork: 40% (Includes Daily Grade and/or Writing Notebook)**

May include (but not limited to) rough drafts, reading reflections, or writing prompts specific to your goal. This is a completion grade. If you turn it in on time, you get full credit. If you turn it in late, 10% of the grade will be taken off per day that it’s late. (It’s late if you turn it in on the same day but at a later period.)

**Workshop participation: 20%**

This class will have two types of workshops: 1) workshops with me and 2) class workshops. For a workshop with me, you’ll need to be prepared to talk about your work. For class workshops, you’ll be asked to give and receive written feedback on other classmate’s work.

Words should always mean something. My goal is never to make you write what you think you need to say. At the same time, I want you to write! So often, we don’t write (or we stop writing, or we delete) because it’s not good enough. It reads awkwardly. It’s too honest, or too raw, or too silly, or just plain stupid.

*I want you to WRITE ANYWAY. Write through.*

You’ll learn to pick out the gems and how to run from there. But you will access maybe 10% of the good stuff inside you if you refuse to write unless it comes out pretty or interesting or impressive the first time. Prompts and your notebook is my way of forcing you to write– and of rewarding your choice to just write.

Exams

The mid-term and final exam are worth 20% of your semester grades. You are required to take the mid-term (and to take it in the classroom). We will follow school exemption policies for the final exam.

**The Fine Print**

***Class Policies/Rules– these do not rule out school policy***

1. Respect this class and your classmates. That includes:

–not talking when others are talking

–paying attention to Ms. McGuire

–paying attention to your classmates

–cleaning up after yourself

–nodding and smiling when Ms. McGuire acts like a geek (it *will* happen!)

1. If you misbehave, I’ll meet with you. If there is still a problem, I’ll call your parents. If the problem still exists, I’ll submit a Discipline Referral. Since different situations require different responses, the pattern may be a little different. (In the rare case of extreme misbehavior, I’ll submit a DR immediately.) My goal is to be fair to everyone.
2. Cell phones! If I see one (or see you holding it under your desk) I’ll remind you to put it away. If I see it again, I get to keep it on my desk till the end of class.
3. I have zero tolerance for cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism involves If you cheat, you will be given a score of 0.
4. Make up work is your responsibility. If you are absent, ASK WHAT YOU MISSED **before you get back to class**. Do not wait until the end of a nine weeks or a semester to find out what you owe. Extended time away from school will be handled on an individual basis.
5. You are tardy to class if you are not through my door **before** the tardy bell rings.

Please fill out/sign this form and return it to Ms. McGuire

I have read the syllabus, understood what is expected of me, and agreed to abide by its policies and rules.

I will use \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to move computer work between school and home.

Student’s signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student’s printed name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I have read the syllabus and understand what is expected of my son or daughter.

Parent’s signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s printed name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Telephone #(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*Email address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_