

Creative Writing, Fall 2010-11

Technology Use Agreement

In the interest of moving forward into the 21st-century classroom, Mr. Dittes' s Creative Writing class will pursue a "paperless portfolio" this semester. This will require both the same imagination and determination that students typically bring to creative writing and some new online tools that students will utilize in their writing.

Above all, Mr. Dittes hopes to maintain the security of Station Camp students and the involvement of parents. To that end, this agreement is designed to inform students & parents about the web applications we will be using, steer them toward the online resources we will use to publish our work, and to assure them of the great amount of learning this development makes possible.

Creative Writing Class Wiki

Students will publish their work this year in an online portfolio at PBworks.com. Mr. Dittes has set up a classroom wiki at <http://crewri10.pbworks.com>. For security purposes, this wiki can only be seen and accessed by those Mr. Dittes invites to the site, which will fall into the following 4 categories:

- students taking Mr. Dittes' s creative writing course
- students in the SCHS Literary Club
- parents of students taking creative writing
- school or district administrators who wish to monitor this class wiki

A wiki is a collaborative learning tool that is quickly becoming mainstream in both education and business. Wiki users may edit work from any computer, they may collaborate on writing and multimedia projects, they may comment on others' work, and they can plug in other multimedia applications available on the Internet. Stressing security, however, they can only share our class wiki pages with other, invited users.

Additional Online Applications

In order to fully utilize the Internet for learning in our classroom, we will be using other online applications in the class. *Security for these sites will be at the discretion of the students, not Mr. Dittes*, even though they will be featuring content on the private wiki. For example, if a student creates a poster on Glogster (glogster.com), and plugs it in to a wiki page, they have the ability to also post the poster to their Facebook account, e-mail it to a friend, etc, whereas they would not be able to share the wiki page in this way because of security.

The sites students may use in this class are

- Google docs--<http://docs.google.com> (a great way to create documents & presentations online)
- Glogster--<http://glogster.com> (an app that allows students to make multimedia posters)
- Picasa--<http://picasa.com> (a place to store photos for use in written work)
- Voki--<http://voki.com> (an avatar app that lets students present their poems virtually)

The written word is changing at its fastest rate since the days of Gutenberg. With hardware like cell phones, iPads and computers, writers are finding new ways to publish, new ways to present their ideas. The use of the class wiki and other online apps will keep SCHS creative writing students ahead of these technology changes and allow them to express themselves in astonishing new ways.

Once you have read the information in this agreement with your SCHS student, please sign the form and fill in the required information below. Students will not be invited to the class wiki until they present a signed permission form.

I give my student permission to utilize the Creative Writing class wiki

I give my student permission to use the Internet applications mentioned above as a part of the Creative Writing Class (alternative options will be given for students who do not have these permissions).

Student Name

Student e-mail address

Parent Name

Parent e-mail address

Date: ____/____/____

*If you have questions about wikis, online apps, or any other aspect of the Creative Writing class, please e-mail Mr. Dittes directly: **james.dittes@sumnerschools.org** or call the school to set up an appointment.*