

**2019-2020 Writing Syllabus**  
**Mrs. Jennifer Burks, Mr. Eric Hardin & Ms. Sarah Hughes**

Unit of Study	Guiding Principles
Narrative Writing	3. Students will compose narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details and well-structured event sequences.
Argumentative Writing	1. Students will compose arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.  5. Students will conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.  4. Students will use digital resources to create and publish products as well as to interact and collaborate with others.  6. Students will gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source and integrate the information for the purposes of analysis, reflection and research while avoiding plagiarism.
Informational Writing/Speech analysis	2. Students will compose informative and explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization and analysis of content.
Response to Literature	7. Students will compose routinely over extended and shorter time frames for a variety of tasks, purposes and audiences.

**Ongoing/Embedded Language Assessment/Standards:**

1. Students will demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing and speaking.
2. Students will demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation and spelling when writing.
3. Students will apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.
4. Students will use a variety of strategies to determine or clarify the meaning of words and phrases, consulting reference material when appropriate. Students will acquire and use accurately a range of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases sufficient for reading, writing, speaking and listening in order to be transition ready.
5. Students will demonstrate understanding of word relationships and nuances in word meanings.

\*\*These units of study and language components will be our largest focus for the school year. There will also be a significant amount of reading (mostly non-fiction) pieces in writing classes. Reading and Writing classes will overlap standards/guiding principles and some ongoing skills students will work to improve upon are

annotation, credibility of a source, relevance of evidence to a claim and including commentary to support a claim.

**C3WP Initiative:**

Bardstown City Schools has been in partnership with the National Writing Project (C3WP) since the beginning of last school year. Students will engage in routine argument writing that will extend beyond our argumentative unit of study. This work will be completed in reading and writing classes.

Exposure to Routine Argument Writing	Writing and Revising Claims
Connecting Evidence to Claims	Making Moves With Evidence
Organizing/Ranking Evidence	Writing On-Demand Arguments
Making Civic Arguments	Writing and Revising Civic Arguments

**Expectations:**

8th grade students are held to high academic and behavior standards. In addition to teaching content, it is critical to prepare our students for high school. There will be consistent conversations about earning credits and accountability. In short, our expectations include:

- You're going to work--Don't say you can't. Don't say you won't.
- Have integrity--follow the rules and do the right thing even when no one is looking.
- Be respectful--be kind and respectful to your teachers, classmates and respect yourself.
- Take responsibility for your actions.

**Grading Scale:**

- We divide our grade book into 3 categories; Daily Work (60 %), Tests/Quizzes (40%), and Formative (0%). The formative category can be used to show growth on activities like ReadingPlus. Challenge yourself--work hard and don't be afraid if work is hard; that is when you learn!