



K-8 Writing Workshop

A Few Quick Statistics



The 2020 NAEP (National Report Card) revealed that only about 27% of students measure at the proficiency level from grades four through twelve when it comes to their writing skills.



In a 2020 report from the Learning Lab Agency, only 25% of middle schoolers and 31% of high schoolers write about 30 minutes a day, which is the minimum recommended amount for a kindergartener (60 minutes for 1st graders) by the Institute of Education Sciences (IES).



According to a study cited in Inc., 73.4% of employers report that they want to hire candidates with strong written communication skills. In fact, it was the third most desired quality in the poll (behind leadership and the ability to work as a team member).

Writing has been shown to foster:

- Cognitive growth
- Organizational skills
- Self-expression
- Imagination and creativity
- Problem solving and analytical skills
- Communication skills
- An ability to reflect, set goals and receive feedback
- A deeper understanding of READING!



Why Writing Workshop?



Allows for **explicit instruction** and ample **opportunity for practice**.



Encourages children to write the kinds of texts they see in the world and to **write for real audiences**.



Students write about **topics that matter** to them.



Writers are given the instruction and opportunity to cycle through the **writing process**.



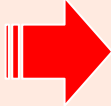
Students are given opportunities to **read as writers**.



Individual **goals** are set and **feedback** is provided throughout the writing process.

MNSD Implementation, YEAR 1:

Writing Units of Study were purchased in the Summer of 2022 for Grades K-8.



In September 2022, “early adopters” were identified, but ALL teachers decided to implement Writing Workshop!



- K-8 Teachers received ongoing training around the workshop approach, with a focus on effective mini-lessons.
- Each new unit was launched at the same time across elementary buildings to ensure consistency and support.



- Students in Grades 1-8 wrote daily for extended periods of time, resulting in increased stamina.
- Students studied and wrote in various genres, including Opinion/Argument, Information, and Narrative/Memoir.
- Writing Celebrations were held at the end of each unit.
- Student writers received numerous awards throughout the county in various contests.



MNSD Implementation, YEAR 2:

Elementary	Middle School
● Writing Workshop occurs daily in Grades 1-5 and at least two days per week in Kindergarten. ● Each grade level will focus on Opinion, Informational, Narrative Writing and Text Dependent Analysis. ● Continued exposure to mentor texts. ● Complete at least five units of study. ● There will be a celebration at the conclusion of each unit. ● Fine Tune Fridays provide an opportunity to focus on grammar, usage, and mechanics using research based strategies.	● The schedule has been adjusted to include a period of writing each day in Grade 6 and Grade 7. ● Writing Instruction will be integrated into ELA instruction in Grade 8 and enrichment classes. ● Argument, Informational, Text Dependent Analysis and Narrative Writing will be explored. ● There will be a correlation between the reading units and writing units, allowing students to deep dive into various genres as readers and writers. ● Grammar, usage, and mechanics will be addressed using research based strategies.

