



# Writing Curriculum

## Kindergarten -

In Kindergarten, Students will build in their letter formation skills. Also, students form reading comprehension skills by retelling and dictating sentences about a text. Their writing further progresses to exposure of labels in writing, as well, as the introduction of what components make up a complete sentence.



## Grades 1 – 8 - Step Up to Writing

Students in Grades 1 – 8 work with Step Up to Writing which is a comprehensive writing solution that supports all students in creating thoughtful, well-crafted compositions. With a focus on the complete writing process, Step Up to Writing offers direct, explicit, multisensory instruction that teaches each phase of the writing process using a collaborative learning approach— ensuring that students understand the construct and mechanics of good writing; are able to evaluate their own writing and the writing of others; and can apply writing skills to the content areas.

Grade 1 – Using the Step Up to Writing Program, students begin to learn that a complete sentence is a complete thought, and that each complete sentence will have both a subject and a verb. Students learn about punctuation, and how to identify “naming part” and “action part” of sentences. Students learn to create: statements, commands, exclamations and questions. Daily spelling lessons provide the vocabulary for developing sentences. The Zaner-Bloser method of handwriting is used.

Grade 2 - Students use the writing program, Step Up to Writing. In this program, we study sentence structure using who, what, when, where, why, and how; letter writing; taking notes for paragraph development; writing a story using tangrams for illustrations; and writing a report at the end of the year. Phonics practice re-enforces the rules of English to help students develop better fluency in reading and writing. The Zaner-Bloser method of handwriting is used, with cursive being taught in the second semester.

Grade 3 - Students use the Step Up to Writing Program. In this program, we study topic sentences, organization, transitions, and paragraph structure. Also, we work on our brainstorming and outlining foundation. Students write various types of papers using templates and examples. Also, students learn to use grammar correctly in their writing.

Grade 4 - Students expand their brainstorming and outlining skills, continuing through with their rough drafts and edits, until they get to the final copy.

Grade 5 - In 5th grade, using the Step Up To Writing process, students create more complex sentences and use more descriptive words. Writing includes, but is not limited to, narratives, persuasive, and how to.

Grades 6 – 8 - Students draft various genre pieces, including memoir, informative, persuasive/argumentative and poetry. Sharing their writing and responding to one other's pieces is integral to the writing community. In the beginning of the school year students work on some memoir pieces to introduce themselves to each other as writers and as human beings. As the year progresses, students create some digital pieces which will allow them to use graphics and text and music to convey their message.