



Things You May Not Know About Our School

Writing

What are Program Reviews?

Some years ago, Kentucky stopped assessing students in Art & Humanities and Portfolio Writing. To replace these assessments, the state began requiring Program Reviews, which is where school staff evaluate the effectiveness of these programs against a set of standards. Now, elementary schools must complete program reviews each year on their Art & Humanities program, their Practical Living & Career Studies program, Writing program, and K-3 Primary Program. These program reviews will be calculated into our overall state assessment scores and will count for 23% of the total score.

Why Do Students Write?

There are a number of reasons why students write. The first is to learn. Students can often make sense of what they are learning and understand it better when they write about it. Students also write to demonstrate learning. This type of writing can take a number of forms and allows students to show what they know. Another purpose for writing is to practice writing skills in order to become better writers.

Why Is Writing Important?

The ability to communicate well is very important, and writing is one way that students will be expected to communicate with others. In the real world, some people communicate through writing more than others, but the truth is that everyone needs to be able to do so. Of course students will need to be able to communicate through writing while they are in school, but even beyond school, writing is important. Completing job applications, filling out forms and reports, or simply chatting with someone on Facebook all require writing skills. The better you can write, the better you can communicate.

How Do Students Participate in Writing?

Students write for many reasons and in many ways every day at school. Aside from just the routine writing to complete class and homework assignments, students engage in specific writing activities to become better writers. Constructed-response writing is one type of writing that students engage in almost every day. This form of writing is intended to prepare students for providing the written responses required on the state assessments. Students also complete specific writing pieces like narratives, persuasive letters, and articles for inclusion in a working writing folder. Journal writing is another one of many kinds of writing that students do in their classes. Beyond classroom level writing, students have opportunities to participate in various writing competitions throughout the year.

How Can You Help?

The simplest way to help your child be a better writer is by reading to them and with them. Studies have proven that better readers make better writers. Also, encourage students to communicate through writing. Buy them a journal or notebook and encourage them to use it. When your child wants to ask you for something, have them try to persuade you in writing. Leaving notes to remind them of things they need to do or just to tell them you love them will show your child that writing is important to you, and what is important to you will become important to them.