

■ "Writing is a social activity... By writing about their experiences in the world and having the opportunity to engage in varied learning experiences, young writers develop a personal voice and gain confidence in their ability to write with authority about a range of topics."

~ National Council of Teachers of English

What can I expect?

Being a Writer takes time, practice and patience. Through the process, your child learns that the ideas behind a writing piece are most important.

- ▶ **Highly motivated** and **engaged** in the writing process.
- ▶ **Excited** about writing choices.
- ▶ **Willing to take risks** while becoming more fluent and confident writer.
- ▶ Learning that the **process** is just as important as the finished product.

■ "Beautiful writing doesn't always look beautiful. The ideas that come from students' writing are what make each piece special."

~ John Barron, CVS Teacher

What can I do to help?

- ▶ Have conversations about writing.
- ▶ Show enthusiasm for writing by writing with your child and sharing how you use writing in your everyday life.
- ▶ Encourage journaling, letter writing and other forms of writing at home.
- ▶ Read age-appropriate literature daily.
- ▶ Celebrate and praise your child's writing success!

What are Chippewa Valley students and teachers saying about *Being A Writer*?

■ "Being a Writer is a wonderful program that helps students develop as creative, descriptive writers and as caring, collaborative people."

~Ted Zotos, CVS Principal

■ "I've watched my students become true writers. Writing is no longer a chore, but a fun time during the school day. They love to share!"

~ Linda Houck, CVS Teacher

■ "I like how we do lots of drafts and get to choose which one we want to publish. We get to talk about the story while we revise and that allows me to be more creative."

~Logan, CVS Student

■ "When I share with the class, it makes me feel good inside because the comments help me improve as a writer."

~ Jillian, CVS Student

■ "I look forward to discussing and sharing my stories with the class. It makes me feel good."

~ Madison, CVS Student

■ "I like to make my own stories. I can write fiction from my imagination."

~ Mark, CVS Student

■ "I never used to like to share my stories. Now I do. I think every class should use this program!"

~ Noah, CVS Student

Remember your child is learning the process of writing. Enjoy their growth as a writer!

Being A Writer

In Chippewa Valley Schools



Preparing students today for the challenges of tomorrow

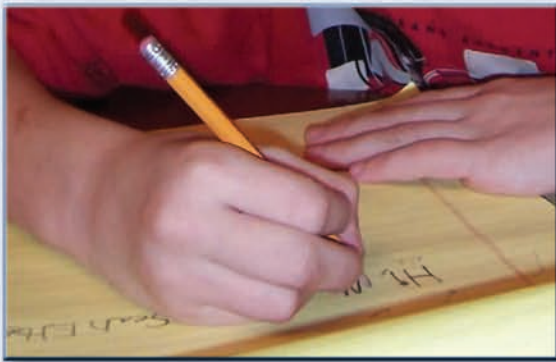


What is *Being A Writer*?

Being a Writer is a yearlong, research-based, writing curriculum for students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Lessons are based on high interest literature, which motivates and excites the student's writing process.

■ "By writing about their experiences in the world and having the opportunity to engage in varied learning experiences, young writers develop a personal voice and gain confidence in their ability to write with authority about a range of topics."

~ National Council of Teachers of English



Why *Being A Writer*?

Being a Writer is based on two decades of research in the areas of writing, motivation, learning theory, as well as social development. The program is about teaching your children to communicate meaning and enjoy writing while meeting state grade level expectations.

In the fall of 2009, Chippewa Valley Schools adopted *Being a Writer* district-wide for ALL elementary level students. This adoption came after a successful year of piloting the program with teachers representing every building and every grade-level, including special education and blended classrooms. Currently, Chippewa Valley Schools is one of the few districts in the area with a comprehensive, K-5 writing curriculum.

How does *Being A Writer* work in my child's classroom?

Being a Writer provides students with the inspiration and motivation to write regularly with passion and intent. By listening to quality literature and focusing on the writing process, children develop an understanding and appreciation for writing.

Focus on the Writing Process

Elementary students are at the very beginning of their lifelong careers as writers. Children build upon the following skills:

- ▶ Generating Ideas
- ▶ Drafting
- ▶ Revising
- ▶ Editing
- ▶ Publishing
- ▶ Sharing and Reflecting
- ▶ 6+1 Traits
Ideas, Organization, Sentence Fluency, Voice, Word Choice, Conventions and Presentation



Focus on Writing Genre

Throughout the K-5 program, *Being a Writer* introduces your children to six specific genres (styles) of writing by having them hear, read, discuss and write in the following styles:

- ▶ **Personal Narrative**
"Students write a story about self"
- ▶ **Fiction**
"Students create an imaginative story"
- ▶ **Expository Nonfiction**
"Students research and write on a topic"
- ▶ **Functional Nonfiction**
"Students write specialized information"
- ▶ **Persuasive Writing**
"Students write to influence others"
- ▶ **Poetry**

Focus on the Writing Community

Through a variety of age appropriate activities, students learn to work together, develop social skills, and take responsibility for their learning.

Being a Writer encourages a strong sense of community by promoting the following goals:

- ▶ Listening **respectfully** to the thinking of others and sharing their own.
- ▶ Working in a **responsible** way.
- ▶ Expressing interest in and **appreciation** for one another's writing.
- ▶ Making decisions and solving problems **respectfully**.
- ▶ Acting in **fair** and **caring** ways.
- ▶ **Helping** one another improve their writing.