

# The Writing Initiative



**MCARTHUR HIGH SCHOOL  
MR. JUSTIN JACKSON  
WRITING COACH**

# A Sense of Urgency...



- This year, McArthur High School's language arts department is diligently working to improve student writing.
- To do this, teachers are not only preparing students for the Florida Writes test in March, but they also provide instruction on writing for different purposes, audiences, and formats.
- This requires that students possess a command of the English language through varied sentence structure, advanced vocabulary, a demonstrated understanding of language conventions, the revision process, and creating responses to literature that demonstrate comprehension and critical thinking skills.

# What Parents Need to Know:



- The test is scored on a scale of 0 (lowest) to 6 (highest).
- As of now, our students are at an 83% passing rate on the test. Our program goal on the School Improvement Plan is 88%
- The writing coach planned a push-in program with all tenth grade English teachers to model writing lessons and provides one-on-one assistance when necessary.
- The district curriculum specialist trained teachers on how to correctly assess with essays written for the Florida Writes test.
- The department formed a professional learning community to share and discuss best practices in writing instruction on various forms of poetry and prose.



# Writing Instruction

Program Goal: 88% of students receive a 4 or higher on the Florida Writes Assessment

The English department at McArthur is following the district IFC for all primary instruction with core works and literacy strategies.

Our secondary IFC focuses on preparation for the Florida Writes Assessment test in March.

- ✓ Diane Fettrow trained teachers on how to correctly assess writing prompts on 09/02 and 09/07.
- ✓ Writing instruction emphasizes elaboration, development of ideas, and organization.
- ✓ All 10<sup>th</sup> Grade teachers are a part of a professional learning community that meets weekly to discuss instruction.
- ✓ Additional writing instruction outside of the prompted essay is utilized to supplement grammar, spelling, usage, and mechanics.
- ✓ Push In: Writing Coach works specifically with classes on a rotation schedule.
- ✓ Pull Out: After Winter Break, targeted students will be pulled out of elective classes to receive supplemental instruction.

# Most Recent Data: October, 471 Students Tested



## Scores

0 - >1% (7)  
1 - 6% (26)  
2 - 13% (60)  
3 - 36% (170)  
4 - 36% (168)  
5 - 8% (38)  
6 - 0 (0)

## Sub – Groups: 4's and Above

White: 49% (100)  
Black: 37% (77)  
Latino: 67% (139)  
Asian: N/A  
American Indian: N/A  
E.D.: 71% (147)  
ELL: 46% (94)  
ESE: 16% (32)

# What Parents Can Do At Home:



- **What Parents Can Do at Home:**
- **Encourage students to incorporate the Word of the Day in conversation and writing.**
- **Check any written responses, essay or otherwise, and require that your students uses varied sentence structure.**
- **Ask your child to text and email with correct punctuation and spelling.**