

MIDDLE SCHOOL WRITING CENTERS



THE PROGRAM

Year First Funded: Piloted Winter 2017
No. of Students Served: 600+
Students Served: 6th-8th graders
Schools: Adele Harrison and Altimira Middle Schools

A PLACE FOR ALL

With inspiration from 826 Valencia in San Francisco, the Middle School Writing Centers provide a place for all students to develop and enhance their writing skills. Writing teachers staff the Writing Centers in each middle school, offering both in-class writing support and small group support in the Writing Centers. Writing Center teachers collaborate with the classroom teachers on class assignments and creative writing projects.

Teachers and volunteers spark ideas by asking probing questions to encourage the students to think more deeply about their writing. Students find their voice and learn writing strategies, academic language, and receive help in planning, drafting, and revising. Small group work allows for more individualized support in becoming strong, creative writers.

In September 2018, the school district hired a Program Director to oversee the Middle School Writing Centers. And, a volunteer program is being developed to provide students with even more individualized support!

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Are you a thoughtful and caring person? The Writing Centers need you! If you are ready to work with and learn along side students please contact Liz Liscum at: LLiscum@sonomaschools.org
- Some past creative writing projects include: Adele Harrison students created book reviews for placement next to corresponding books in Sonoma's Readers Bookstore. Written and designed by students, the brochures included a review, a book rating, a quote from the book, and the author's biography. Altimira students produced a monthly digital school newspaper, the Wolf Paw Press, filled with pictures and events at the Altimira. The newspaper was written and edited by students in the Writing Center.
- Students become published authors! Student work, including poetry, class assignments, and stories are gathered and published in anthologies written entirely by students. Student authors are presented with the books at the school assembly. When students see their published work, they feel proud and excited!



Student writers proudly showing their book reviews at Sonoma's Readers' books.

"The Writing Center allows me to send small groups of students, whether they have remedial needs or are reading and writing at a more advanced level allowing me to focus on the individual needs of students."

-Julie Ryan, ELA teacher

If you would like more information please contact Debra Garber at Deb@svgreatschools.org
Sonoma Valley Education Foundation - October 2018