



Writing by Design[®]

Unit One

Greetings, Wonderful Parents!

I am happy to share that our class will experience exciting and enriching writing instruction throughout this school year. Students will have many opportunities to share stories and ideas. We will spend approximately fifteen minutes each day in a variety of writing activities. Examples:

1. Modeled Writing - I will explicitly demonstrate the process of writing by 'thinking aloud' about what I want to write and how to choose, locate, and spell words.
2. Shared Writing - Students will provide input while I write their ideas.
3. Drawing and sharing pictures to practice thinking and talking about ideas.

Through these activities, your child will learn that their thoughts can be expressed through drawings and writing, which can then be shared verbally.

Our writing instruction will be divided into units, generally five weeks in length, each with a different focus. At the beginning of each unit, I will send you a brief letter describing our focus for the coming weeks with suggestions on how you can support your child's learning at home.

In our first unit, we will use pictures and drawings to help students understand that pictures describe things. We will draw pictures and decide what details could be added to make the picture more interesting. Students will learn to share the details of their pictures with a partner and the whole class.

Ideas for Home Support

1. Have your child draw pictures and share what they drew. Don't be concerned if your child's drawing is mostly scribbling. This is a developmental starting point for writing. Whatever the stage of your child's drawings, have them talk about what they drew and ask questions that require more details. Begin to have your child share their thoughts in complete sentences.
2. Show your child an interesting photo or image. Ask them to share what they think is happening in the photo.
3. Read a picture book to your child and stop along the way to have them make predictions of what might happen next.

Thank you for all your support!

Sincerely,