

The Life of a Writer in Oyster Bay-East Norwich Schools

**Board of Education Meeting
February 10, 2015**

**Presented by Valerie Vacchio,
K-12 Supervisor of ELA, Reading, and Library Media**

Goals of Presentation

- * **Research**
- * **Common Core Learning Standards**
- * **Priorities and Next Steps**
- * **Highlights**

Research on Writing

- * “If students are to make knowledge their own, they must struggle with the details, wrestle with the facts, and rework raw information and dimly understood concepts into language they can communicate to someone else. In short, if students are to learn, they must write.”*

(Becoming A Nation of Readers, p. 9, 1985)

Common Core Learning Standards for Literacy

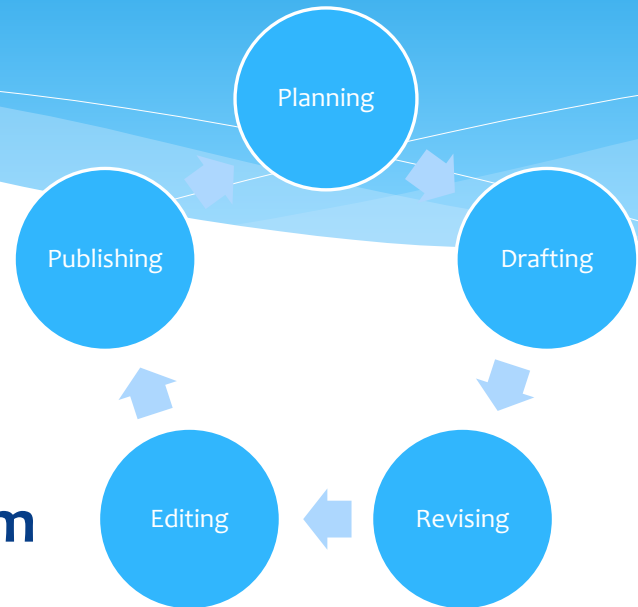
- * **K-12 Writing Curriculum**
- * **Three Types of Writing**
 - * **(Argument, Narrative, Information/Explanatory)**
- * **Writing Across ALL Disciplines**
- * **Common Core English Regents Examination**
 - * **Students who entered Grade 9 in the 2013-14 school year must pass this exam to graduate**

Changing Expectations

- * **Class of 2022 (current 4th graders):**
 - * **The first cohort of students required to pass Common Core Regents Exams (ELA and math) at the aspirational level, at least 75% and 80% on these exams, respectively**
 - * **These scores indicate students have fully met the Common Core college and career readiness course-level expectations**

K-12 Priorities in Writing

- **The Writing Process**
 - **Editing and Grammar**
- **A Spiraled Writing Curriculum**
- **Writing as a Tool to Deepen Understanding**
 - **Argument/ Opinion Writing**
 - **Position and Prominence in Standards**
 - **The Role of Student Research**



Vertical and Horizontal Articulation in Writing, Grades 9-12

- * **Academic Integrity Practices**
 - * www.turnitin.com
- * **Expectations for Grading**
- * **Guidelines for Essays and Research Papers**
- * **Criteria for Rewriting Assignments**
- * **Writing Assignment Matrix Grades 9-12**
 - * **Required writing assignments**
 - * **Genres (Argument, Research, Narrative, Informational)**

Next Steps

- * **Articulation in Grades 2-3 and 6-7**
- * **Literacy Across the Content Areas**
- * **Considerations**
 - * **Writing Support for ALL Students in OBHS Library Staffed by Teaching Assistants certified in English**
 - * **Increased Access to Technology**

Rigor, Relevance, Relationships

- * **100% College and Career Readiness**
 - * **Excellence with Equity**
 - * **Personalize Each Student's Pathway**
 - * **Provide Opportunities for Deeper Learning**
 - * **Empower Students to Feel Ownership of their Learning**

Oyster Bay's Finest

* Student Voices



Emails from Oyster Bay's Alumni

- * “Both AP Literature and Essay Writing for College have given me an advantage.”
- * “I must say AP Literature was the perfect preparation for the English class I am currently taking, which is non- Western Contemporary Literature.”
- * “Also, www.turnitin.com is good practice, too, because a lot of my homework is electronic.”

Emails from Oyster Bay's Alumni

- * “I came to Cornell University as an Industrial Labor Relations major and, no discredit to ILR, I found myself missing English a lot freshman year. I have the OBHS English Department to thank for that.”
- * “Every time I come across *Oedipus* in a gender studies class or *Heart of Darkness* in a history class, I am so grateful because I know I was exposed to the most useful classic works. There are themes, criticisms, and ways of thinking about literature I learned in AP Literature that give me a unique perspective in so many of my courses, not just English.”

Emails from Oyster Bay's Alumni

- * “Many first-year students from other high schools have had nowhere near the vital writing preparation that I received at OBHS.”
- * “Thank you for preparing me and the rest of the OBHS students for the realities of college! To be honest the work load in some of my classes seems light in comparison to all we accomplished in AP Literature.”
- * “I just wanted to thank you and the rest of the English Department for teaching me to love writing and reading. While many aspects of college are difficult, I know completing my writing assignments won't be.”

Closing Thoughts

“Writers intend, readers interpret. So what I write means nothing until a reader says so.”

~Lester Laminack

Thank you!

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