



## Spartan Writing Camp

June 20 – July 21, 2016

### Audience

This year Spartan Writing Camp (SWC) offered 29 sessions for 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.

The following camps were offered:

- **Sports Write Now!** Elementary 3-5 and Middle 6-8
- **Creating Comics** Middle School 6-8
- **Creative Writing** Elementary 3-5 and Middle 6-8
- **Creative Writing: Starting with Pictures** Elementary 3-5
- **Growing Young Writers** Elementary 1-2
- **Digital Storytelling** Elementary 3-5
- **Animal Facts and Fables** Elementary 3-5
- **Kids for Causes** Elementary 3-5 and Middle 6-8
- **Geeking Out: SciFi and Fantasy Writing** Middle 6-8
- **Fiction in a Flash** Middle 6-8
- **Diary of You!** Middle 6-8

Full- and half-day camps were offered Monday – Thursdays over the weeks of June 20<sup>th</sup>, June 27<sup>th</sup>, July 11<sup>th</sup>, and July 18<sup>th</sup>.

The 2016 participants included:

- 15 Red Cedar Writing Project (RCWP) Teacher Consultants. The RCWP is MSU's chapter of the National Writing Project (NWP).
- 251 young writers, 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade



### Funding

Spartan Writing Camps are funded primarily from registration fees: 'Early bird' rates of \$125 and \$225 for full & half-day camps, respectively; or \$140 and \$240 for regular registration fees. SWC also receives financial support from Red Cedar Writing Project, which provided scholarships for 9 students based on free or reduced lunch eligibility.

Spartan Writing Campers receive a Spartan Writing Camp t-shirt, a writing journal, a treat from the MSU Dairy Store, and a handout of writing tips and activities to take home.

### Objectives

Spartan Writing Camp is designed to create an atmosphere of community to help campers lead a writerly life and to gain new "writing tools" and experiences for their "writing toolboxes." Teachers and campers model how to collect ideas from the world around them to use in their writing. Campers are introduced to a variety of authors through mentor texts and try their hand at writing alongside these distant mentors.

### Outcomes

Camper Feedback:

- "My [session] was eccentrically creative and amusing."
- "[Camp] reminds us of how we all need to work together in order to run a world of our own."
- "I didn't really know what to expect at first, but it was wonderful!"
- "My teacher was really nice, and I made friends."
- "We got to be our quirky, creative selves."
- "My camp was intense and packed with a lot of writing activities."

Contact hours between Teacher Consultants and campers totaled 6,944; 1,776 more contact hours than last year.

### Additional Significant Information

- SWC has a high rate of returning attendees, which bodes well for future recruitment efforts.
- We serve a high number of faculty children and youth, which contributes to faculty retention and investment in the community.
- RCWP received a \$1250 grant from the Arts Council of Greater Lansing to provide 6 scholarships to underserved youth. This will free up funds, allowing RCWP to take writing camps into the community in order to broaden access and fulfill our land-grant mission.

### Contact Information

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