

## WRITING COMMITTEE – EMPHASIS ON WRITTEN EXPRESSION

Browning Public Schools has developed and supported writing curriculum since its beginning. Browning Public Schools formally embraced writing instruction in 1993 beginning with the creation of four *Board Policies*:

**#4120R Instruction and Evaluation Procedures for Written Expression(1994)**

...Teachers in all grades and content areas are directed to provide students with developmentally appropriate instruction in the Writing Process and Six-Trait Writing.

**#4120 Instructional Emphasis on Written Expression (1994)**

...The superintendent is directed to ensure that a trained assessment team, comprised of representatives from each building is formed and maintained in order to collect and evaluate district level written assessment.

**#3015 Reporting Student Progress (1993)**

...All teachers are responsible for the on-going professional evaluation of students in their charge for the day or any portion of the day.

**#4030 Student/Program Evaluation, Testing and Data Generating.(2000)**

...Methods and means of evaluation and measurement will reflect best practice. Data samples will be analyzed within the context of the assessment device's stated purpose and design considerations. Data generated shall be treated in a confidential manner.

The Writing Process was first presented in Browning in the 1990's through Dr. Beverly Chin, UM Professor of English. Six-Trait Writing was presented to BPS in the 1990's through Northwest Regional Education Labs. The current Reading curriculum at the elementary levels (Wonders) has components of The Writing Process and Six-Trait Writing. With the development of THE six-traits teachers are better able to support specific aspects of writing.

Many teachers, at Browning Public Schools, have never been trained in the Writing Process or Six-Trait Writing, but are expected to implement both processes according to policy #4120R. Between the elementary and secondary grades there are three different writing programs in place. Then, three times a year our students are given formal writing assessments that are evaluated for the six-traits. Our scoring team has used a scoring Rubric developed specifically for Six-Traits through Education Northwest but our teachers have rarely seen this Rubric. The Wonders program does present traits and Rubrics to students but they are not always specific and may be presented in any order. BPS students are instructed in all grades to write-across-the-curriculum and develop as writers in content areas.

The writing assessment has been given multiple times during the school year; beginning, middle, end. This allows the teacher to see a base score and use the data to progress monitor in their classroom writing, policies #3015 and #4030. These writing samples also provide excellent feedback to parents. However, with the remote learning in 2020-2021 no writing assessment was given at the district level to provide data. The new writing programs will be vital this year to redevelop the writing skills of our students. The Writing Process and Six-Trait Writing can be integrated into each of these programs.

Browning Public Schools have traditionally supported a writing committee and a team of writing scorers, policy #4120. In past years the district has put out a call for committee members, in recent years the response has been minimal. For several years the scoring team was a collection of retired educators. This year the members of the scoring team have all decided to enjoy their retirement years and we are currently rebuilding the scoring team.

The District writing committee needed a revamp and rebuild. The committee will be supervised by the curriculum director, Mrs. Rebecca Rappold. Mrs. Rappold has requested 2-3 teachers, from each grade level, to volunteer and become part of the writing committee/assessment team. These teachers & coaches will be responsible for the creation of the writing prompts used this year on the assessments. These people will also become the interim scoring team for the 2021-2022 school year. The Browning Public Schools Strategic Plan addresses *staff growth and development* as an opportunity for staff to expand their skillset by offering tailored professional development. Pillar 1 of the plan also addresses the collection & evaluation of data. The data will provide information useful in the MTSS continuous-improvement framework. The goal for the new committee is to be trained on Six-Traits, Writing Process, Montana Common Core Standards and Rubric scoring along with the dissemination of the data.

- The first district writing assessment is scheduled for the week of October 3rd for grades 4-12.

## **WRITING COMMITTEE - TRAINING**

### **EMPHASIS ON WRITTEN EXPRESSION**

The writing committee will meet for professional development on September 26 & 27, 2022 from 4:00-6:00 in the Administration Board Room. Educators from each grade level will be trained on *The Writing Process, Six-Trait Writing, Montana Content Standards* and *Rubric scoring*.

Mrs. Colleen Wilson will be the trainer. She has been in our district since 1985. Also, Mrs. Wilson is a national trainer for Project Success Enrichment. PSE is a writing program that integrates all aspects of the district's writing objectives. Mrs. Wilson was trained on the Writing Process at UM, by Beverly Chin. Mrs. Wilson received training on the Six-Traits from Northwest Regional Education Laboratory, NWREL also provided training on the implementation of Rubric scoring. PSE uses rubrics to score all of their writing units. Mrs. Wilson has been to Helena for training, through OPI, on the integration and cross-curricular connections of the Montana Content Standards.

Mrs. Wilson will prepare a Keynote presentation linking the Writing Process, Six-Traits & Content Standards. She will present information to the committee about the purpose of our writing assessment as a formative tool to monitor student progress. Committee members will be given written samples and Rubrics to develop their scoring skills. This scoring session will support MTSS decision making based on the data. Finally, using a piece of literature the members will create a written sample of their own that will emphasize the six-traits and writing process.

<b><u>CONSULTANT/TRAINING FEE</u></b>	
PREPERATION.....	\$100.00
HOURLY RATE.....	\$100.00
September 26 & 27, 2022    4 hours.....	<u>\$400.00</u>
TOTAL FEE.....	\$500.00