

Richmond Hill High School's Writing Culture

Foundational Skills

Underclassmen improve their foundational writing skills by learning Hochmann's writing strategies.

These strategies empower students to write clear and correct sentences and well-organized paragraphs. The sentence skills allow students to increase the complexity of thought while the paragraph skills provide them with the tools to be cohesive in expressing ideas that span groups of sentences.

Regents Readiness

Once students have mastered sentence and paragraph skills, they are taught how to write responses to prompts that clearly address what is being asked of them.

Students plan extended responses and organize their paragraphs into structured and effective responses. Students use the writing process to plan, draft, and revise their work.

Post-secondary Readiness

In order to prepare students for their postsecondary goals, students write personal statements and learn how to do careful research and incorporate that outside information into their own writing.

Students are taught how to use their foundational and Regents readiness skills to write responses that clearly address audience and purpose. Students learn to use the mode and genre most appropriate to the tasks they encounter.



DEPARTMENTAL WRITING

English Department

In the English department, students write frequently and informally in order to develop voice and stamina to address more formal tasks.

Students write to express personal opinions, establish claims, distinguish their claims from opposing perspectives, identify central ideas, and analyze texts for authors' use of writing strategies.

Math Department

In the Math department, students write to express their understanding of mathematical concepts and problems.

Students write to indicate necessary steps, determine answers, and show their work.

Social Studies Department

In the Social Studies department, students write frequently to express understanding of historical concepts and texts.

Students write to explain historical circumstances, describe historical context, to identify enduring issues and relationships, and to analyze texts for their audience, purpose, bias, and point-of-view.

Science Department

In the Science department, students write to express their understanding of scientific information and processes.

Students write to identify information, support their answers, and explain reasoning and processes (why and how).