

# Gray Matter 2019-2020 Course Catalog

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## Language Arts

### Advanced Composition

**Teacher:** Gaspar Escobar

**Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12

**Class Schedule:** Tuesday/Thursday

**Class Time:** 11:00 am – 12:15 pm

**Duration:** 2.5 hours per week, 32 wks

**Description:** Join us as we learn trade secrets for crafting powerful Expository Essays! This class will focus on teaching an explicit series of essay-writing steps, plus all the skills you will need to excel at the two types of argumentation required most in High School and College writing: the Explanatory Essay and the Persuasive Essay.

Since writing well also requires students to access great writing by others, we will draw inspiration from a number of texts and materials, and aim for lively discussions at each class meeting.

By the end of this course students should be confident in their ability to communicate complex ideas through their own writing. They should also feel comfortable enough with argumentation to thoroughly enjoy the writing process.

**Completion of this course fulfills an English credit requirement for high school.**

**Prerequisites:** None

**Homework:** Students can expect to spend 2–5 hours per week, depending on student pace.

**Class Materials:**

Pens/pencils  
Notebooks or paper (or laptop or tablet) for note taking

**Textbooks:**

A Professor's Guide to Writing Essays: The No-Nonsense Plan for Better Writing, Dr. Jacob Neumann (\$10).  
MLA Handbook, 8th Edition, The Modern Language Association of America (Any 8th Edition copy will suffice)

**Payment Options:**

1. Full tuition of \$1144.00 is due at time of registration.
2. Two (2) installments.
3. Four (4) installments.
4. Nine (9) monthly payments of \$127.00. The first monthly tuition payment is due at time of registration. Subsequent monthly payments of \$127 will begin the month following the month you registered and will continue until all additional eight (8) payments are collected.

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### High School English

**Teacher:** Gaspar Escobar

**Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12

**Class Schedule:** Tuesday/Thursday

**Class Time:** 9:30 – 10:45am

**Duration:** 2.5 hours per week, 32 wks

**Description:** This class primarily focuses on literature from the nineteenth and twentieth century with references to older works. Students will learn vocabulary from the works we read. Background information regarding the social, political, and literary issues of the time will be discussed to enrich our learning experience. The student will respond to the literature through various projects. Grammar and spelling will be addressed as well.

**Literature:** The works that will be used are to be determined (*all updates will be found at <http://www.graymatterdfw.com/enroll-now/>*)

**Prerequisites:** None

**Homework:** Students can expect to spend 2–4 hours per week, depending on student pace.

**Class Materials:** 3-ring binder devoted to this class only  
Notebook paper  
Pens/pencils  
Optional: laptop or other writing device

**Payment Options:**

1. Full tuition of \$1,144.00 is due at time of registration
2. Two (2) installments.
3. Four (4) installments.
4. Nine (9) monthly payments of \$127. The first monthly tuition payment is due at time of registration. Subsequent monthly payments of \$127 will begin the month following the month you registered and will continue until all additional eight (8) payments are collected.

## Intro to High School Writing

**Teacher:** Gaspar Escobar

**Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12

**Class Schedule:** Tuesday/Thursday

**Class Time:** 2:30 – 3:30 pm

**Duration:** 2 hours per week, 32 weeks

**Description:** Some basic techniques and skills are just essential to complete the writing tasks of high school and beyond. We will break those skills down. We will begin at the sentence level, spend more time on paragraphs, and eventually write a few essays. This class will include some gentle work on spelling, but spelling or handwriting do not determine a student's success as a writer.

We will actually be writing often during the class period, so students are encouraged to bring a laptop or other device to class to do their writing.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Homework:** Students can expect to spend 2–4 hours per week, depending on student pace.

**Class Materials:** 3-ring binder devoted to this class only (1/2 inch)  
Notebook paper  
Pens/pencils  
Optional: laptop or other writing device

**Textbook:** *TDB (all updates will be found at <http://www.graymatterdfw.com/enroll-now/>)*

**Payment Options:**

1. Full tuition of \$915.00 is due at time of registration.
2. Two (2) installments.
3. Four (4) installments.
4. Nine (9) monthly payments of \$101.67 The first monthly tuition payment is due at time of registration. Subsequent monthly payments of \$101.67 will begin the month following the month you registered and will continue until all additional eight (8) payments are collected.

## Intermediate High School Writing

**Teacher:** Gaspar Escobar

**Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12

**Class Schedule:** Tuesday/Thursday

**Class Time:** 3:45 – 4:45 pm

**Duration:** 2 hours per week, 32 weeks

<b>Fee(s):</b>	<b>Full Tuition</b>	<b>Supply Fee</b>
	\$684.00	\$0

**Description:** This class is designed for high school students who have a handle on basic writing skills but are not yet ready to

jump into advanced composition. We will begin the year with a few paragraphs, spend most of our time on essays, and finish the year with a small research project. We will be targeting any problem areas we discover, strengthening editing and revising skills, and refining style.

We will actually be writing often during the class period, so students are encouraged to bring a laptop or other device to class to do their writing.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Homework:** Students can expect to spend 2–4 hours per week, depending on student pace.

**Class Materials:** 3-ring binder devoted to this class only  
Notebook paper  
Pens/pencils  
Optional: laptop or other writing device

**Textbook:** *TDB (all updates will be found at <http://www.graymatterdfw.com/enroll-now/>)*

**Payment Options:**

1. Full tuition of \$915.00 is due at time of registration.
2. Two (2) installments.
3. Four (4) installments.
4. Nine (9) monthly payments of \$101.67 The first monthly tuition payment is due at time of registration. Subsequent monthly payments of \$101.67 will begin the month following the month you registered and will continue until all additional eight (8) payments are collected.

## Middle School English A

**Teacher:** Gaspar Escobar

**Grades:** 6, 7

**Class Schedule:** Monday/Wednesday

**Class Time:** 2:30 – 3:30 pm

**Duration:** 2 hours per week, 32 wks

**Description:** This class includes grammar, reading, and vocabulary. We read several novels during the year plus short stories and poetry. We will build skills in a variety of ways, including written exercises, games, discussions, group activities, and creative demonstrations of knowledge.

The list of novels for 2020-2021 is to be determined (*all updates will be found at <http://www.graymatterdfw.com/enroll-now/>*).

*NOTE: Students can take this course for up to 3 years. The textbooks, vocabulary, and literature will not be the same from one year to the next.*

**Prerequisites:** None

**Homework:** Students can expect to spend 1–4 hours per week, depending on student pace.

**Class Materials:** 3-ring binder devoted to this class only (1/2 inch)  
Standard notebook paper  
Pens/pencils  
Colored pencils  
Optional: laptop or other writing device

**Textbook:** Easy Grammar Grade 6 Workbook ISBN: 978-0-936981-468.  
Vocabulary will be taken from novels we read.

Gray Matter will provide a classroom set of the novels we read so that we can all use the same edition. If a student wants to keep a particular book, they can buy it from me for \$5.

**Payment Options:**

1. Full tuition of \$885.00 is due at time of registration.
2. Two (2) installments.
3. Four (4) installments.

- Nine (9) monthly payments of \$98.34. The first monthly tuition payment is due at time of registration. Subsequent monthly payments of \$98.34 will begin the month following the month you registered and will continue until all additional eight (8) payments are collected.

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## Middle School English B

**Teacher:** Gaspar Escobar

**Grades:** 7, 8

**Class Schedule:** Monday/Wednesday

**Class Time:** 3:30 – 4:30 pm

**Duration:** 2 hours per week, 32 wks

**Description:** This class includes grammar, reading, and vocabulary. We read several novels during the year plus short stories and poetry. We will build skills in a variety of ways, including written exercises, games, discussions, group activities, and creative demonstrations of knowledge.

The following is a VERY TENTATIVE and partial list of novels for 2020-2021. (You do not need to purchase these since I will have a classroom set.)

- The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton
- Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes.

*NOTE: Students can take this course for up to 3 years. The textbooks, vocabulary, and literature will not be the same from one year to the next.*

**Prerequisites:** None

**Homework:** Students can expect to spend 1–4 hours per week, depending on student pace.

**Class Materials:** 3-ring binder devoted to this class only (1/2 inch)  
Standard notebook paper  
Pens/pencils  
Colored pencils  
Optional: laptop or other writing device

**Textbook:** Easy Grammar Ultimate Series: 180 Daily Teaching Lessons--Grade 8 Student Workbook (ISBN: 978-0-936981-628)  
Vocabulary will be taken from novels we read.

Gray Matter will provide a classroom set of the novels we read so that we can all use the same edition. If a student wants to keep a particular book, they can buy it from me for \$5.

### **Payment Options:**

- Full tuition of \$885.00 is due at time of registration.
- Two (2) installments.
- Four (4) installments.
- Nine (9) monthly payments of \$98.34. The first monthly tuition payment is due at time of registration. Subsequent monthly payments of \$98.34 will begin the month following the month you registered and will continue until all additional eight (8) payments are collected.

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## Middle School Writing

**Teacher:** Gaspar Escobar

**Grades:** 6, 7, 8

**Class Schedule:** Monday/Wednesday

**Class Time:** 9:30 – 10:45 am

**Duration:** 2.5 hours per week, 32 wks

**Description:** We will do all kinds of exercises and activities to explore our voices and to improve our mechanics and style. This class will include some work on spelling.

We will actually be writing often during the class period, so students are encouraged to bring a laptop or other device to class to do their writing.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Homework:** Students can expect to spend 1–2 hours per week.

**Class Materials:** Notebook or paper (or laptop or other writing device)  
Pens/pencils

**Textbook:** *100 Words Every Middle Schooler Should Know* (American Heritage Dictionary) ISBN: 978-0-547333-229.

**Payment Options:**

1. Full tuition of \$1,106.25 is due at time of registration.
  2. Two (2) installments.
  3. Four (4) installments.
  4. Nine (9) monthly payments of \$122.92. The first monthly tuition payment is due at time of registration. Subsequent monthly payments of \$122.92 will begin the month following the month you registered and will continue until all additional eight (8) payments are collected.
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## Yoga & Creative Writing

**Teacher:** Mary Kimble-Hellen

**Grades:** 6, 7, 8, 9

**Class Schedule:** Monday Only

**Class Time:** 9:30 - 10:45 am

**Duration:** 1.25 hours per week, 32 wks

**Description:** This course offers basic instruction in the study of yoga asana and breathing practices. The student will have opportunities to express himself or herself and find joy through movement. Students will be exposed to writing from a prompt, free form writing, poetry, and personal narrative.

Creative writing will enhance students' observation skills and self-confidence. When wandering imaginations and yoga come together, the student will find themselves in the perfect flow to write. Writing tends to be a head activity, and yoga one of the body, but both can be whole-body experiences with remarkable results. Yoga can be a way to bring energy to the page. Through yoga you find breath and through writing you give your breath voice. Pairing writing exercises with physical yoga poses leads to insights and inspirations that make writing fierce and original.

**Format:** Approximately 30 minutes guided yoga practice, 20 minutes writing, 25 minutes student reading and discussion. A final group writing exercise completes the class. Weekly reading and writing exercises will be explained.

**Dress:** Loose clothing suitable for flexible movement. No skirts or dresses.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Homework:** Complete weekly reading and writing exercises. Every 6 weeks students will have 7-10 minutes to present one of their favorite writing samples, which could be a response paper, illustrated poem, essay, or reflection.

Creative Writing Final Exam will be a collection of 10 typed writing samples and illustrations from their journals, creatively organized in a portfolio for easy viewing.

Additionally, each student will take turns facilitating an individualized yoga class as a final exam in yoga.

**Class Materials:** Yoga mat and blanket. The instructor will provide additional props.  
Bound Composition Journal  
Colored pencils, pencils, pens,  
Portfolio for final exam

**Payment Options:**

1. Full tuition of \$681.39 is due at time of registration.
2. Two (2) installments.
3. Four (4) installments.
4. Nine (9) monthly payments of \$75.71. The first monthly tuition payment is due at time of registration. Subsequent monthly payments of \$75.71 will begin the month following the month you registered and will continue until all additional eight (8) payments are collected.