



Class Title: Green Handwriting Lab

Subjects Covered: Language Arts

Teacher Name: Candice Braun

Class Day: Monday

Class Size: 15

Overall Class Cost: \$65

Individual Student Supply Fee: \$0

Class Fee: \$96

Ages or color group served: Green

What level is this class: Level 0

Prerequisites: NA

Graduation Requirements: Meet HCU's standard attendance requirements

Homework Requirements: Small amount each week for extra practice

Class Description:

Handwriting Lab is a hands-on class designed to help young writers develop the foundational skills needed for comfortable, legible, and confident handwriting. Students will learn proper pencil grip, posture, paper positioning, pencil control, letter formation, sizing, spacing, and line placement while progressing from individual letters to words and sentences.

Because handwriting is a motor skill, students will not spend the entire class sitting with pencil and paper. Weekly lessons will combine direct handwriting instruction with fine-motor warm-ups, multisensory activities, dry-erase practice, tracing and pencil-control activities, handwriting games, and guided workbook practice.

Students will be placed in either the Kindergarten or Grade 1 based on their current handwriting ability and developmental needs rather than age alone. This allows students who are still developing foundational pencil and letter-formation skills to receive appropriate support while more experienced writers continue developing fluency, consistency, and independent written output. Both levels use the same approach, allowing students to participate together in whole-group instruction while completing appropriately leveled workbook practice.

Students will work sequentially through their individual handwriting books throughout the semester, with selected practice continuing at home between classes. The workbook will provide families with an ongoing record of the student's handwriting development and progress.

Instruction will primarily focus on manuscript/print handwriting. Students who are already learning cursive may continue their cursive instruction outside of class while using Handwriting Lab to strengthen the foundational motor, spacing, sizing, and writing skills that support both forms of handwriting.

The goal of Handwriting Lab is not perfect penmanship. The goal is to develop efficient handwriting habits, improve fine-motor control, and help students become increasingly confident and independent when putting their own words on paper.

Week 1:

Ready to Write

Students learn and practice the foundations of successful handwriting: posture, paper position, helping-hand placement, pencil grip, and appropriate writing pressure. Students complete an initial handwriting sample and participate in fine-motor and pencil-control activities.

Week 2:

Starting at the Top

Students begin the Handwriting Without Tears letter-formation sequence with an emphasis on consistent starting points, top-to-bottom movement, and controlled strokes. Large-motor, multisensory, and dry-erase activities reinforce correct formation before students transfer the skill to their individual workbooks.

Week 3:

Building Capital Letters

Students continue capital-letter formation using the Handwriting Without Tears developmental sequence. Instruction emphasizes recognizing common stroke patterns, following correct formation sequences, and developing automatic motor patterns.

Week 4:

Capital Letter Formation & Fluency

Students complete and reinforce capital-letter instruction while working toward increased independence. Activities incorporate letter recognition, formation from memory, names, and practical uses of capital letters.

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Week 6:

Lowercase Letter Families

Students learn lowercase letters through related formation patterns. Multisensory activities help students recognize common movements and use those movements to form multiple letters efficiently and correctly.

Week 7:

Lowercase Formation & Line Control

Students continue progressing through lowercase letter groups while strengthening control of letter size, baseline placement, tall letters, short letters, and letters that extend below the writing line.

Week 8:

Letter Memory & Independent Formation

Students complete and reinforce remaining letter formations while beginning to rely less on tracing and visual models. Activities challenge students to retrieve and produce known letters independently from letter names and sounds.

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Letter Memory & Independent Formation

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Week 10:

Writing With a Purpose

Students apply handwriting skills through meaningful writing activities such as names, labels, lists, picture descriptions, and short phrases. Emphasis shifts from simply forming letters to using handwriting as a tool for communication.

Week 11:

Sentences & Independent Writing

Students practice writing short sentences while maintaining appropriate capitals, lowercase formation, spacing, sizing, line placement, and punctuation. Activities incorporate both copying and generating simple original written responses.

Week 12:

Look What I Can Write!

Students complete a final independent handwriting sample incorporating the skills developed throughout the semester. Students compare their Week 12 writing with their Week 1 sample, identify areas of growth, and celebrate their progress toward more comfortable, legible, and independent handwriting.