

Riverside Public Schools  
63 Woodside Road  
Riverside, IL 60546

November 2015

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Illinois Language and Literacy Council and the Illinois Reading Council annually co-sponsor a state wide Young Authors' conference. The purpose of the conference is to support classroom teachers in their efforts to improve students' reading and writing abilities, and to recognize the achievements of our young authors.

District 96 has participated in the Young Authors' Program for over twenty years. The primary reason for involvement in this program is to provide our students with the experience of authoring their own book, from the creation of the story, to the "publication" of a finished product. This program is noncompetitive. All participants will be recognized at their home school and receive a certificate of participation in the spring.

Students who successfully complete a book will be given the opportunity to have their name entered in a drawing to attend the Young Authors' Conference. The conference is officially scheduled for May 14, 2016 and will be held at Illinois State University in Normal, IL. District 96 is allowed to send eight representatives to the conference. These student representatives will be selected in a drawing conducted by the district in March.

Guidelines for the District 96 Young Authors' Program are as follows:

Student Guidelines:

1. All books should contain school appropriate language and content for all students to read. There is to be no reference to weapons or violence of any kind. The books may be handwritten or typed.
2. Only one book per author may be submitted and must be written during the current school year.
3. Only one author per book.
4. It is not mandatory to illustrate the book. Photography may be used. Pictures from the internet may be used as well, as long as the author gives a notation of credit to the web site/photographer.
5. Books are to be securely bound. Bindings may be sewn, spiral bound, or some other secure way of binding. Hardcover, blank books, called "Bare Books", may also be used. An order of Bare Books for the school/district will take place one time in November 4- 20, 2015.

Parent Guidelines:

1. Parents should limit helping to grammar, punctuation, spelling, and capitalization. Parents should not change the wording for the student. At no time should parents create the story or draw the pictures.
2. Students who wish to be considered for the drawing to attend the statewide conference, need to complete their books by March 4, 2016. Parents will also have to sign a consent form allowing students to be entered in the random drawing for the conference. Parents need to attend the conference on May 14, 2016 in Normal, IL with their child and provide travel arrangements to and from the conference. The Young Author Committee will pay the entrance fee to the conference for the selected students. Please look for the consent form in February 2016.

District 96 Young Authors' Committee