

Dear Parents,



This year students will be doing tons of writing during "Writing Workshop" in our classroom. We will explore many different genres of writing and study the craft of well-known authors to improve our own writing skills. All students have been given their own Writer's Notebook, but I would like your child to personalize his or her notebook to generate a greater sense of ownership. This notebook will be the place where cross-curricular themes, creative ideas, personal feelings, and new characters will be created and developed throughout the year. You won't believe the growth your child will make this year as a writer! It will be fun for you to browse through your child's Writer's Notebook as the year goes on to observe the constant progress.

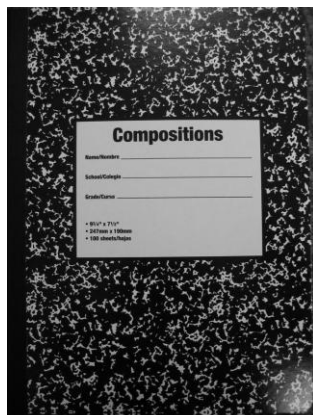
Today I showed the class how I personalized my own Writer's Notebook. I decorated the cover and the back with special photos, paper souvenirs, clipart, and other things that were important to me that I was able to glue onto the notebook. *Additional ideas include:*

- **Photos** (They will be cut and pasted on the notebook, so you may want to make copies of the photos or print new copies if you use a digital camera)
- **Souvenirs** (tickets stubs from special events, pictures from brochures, etc.)
- **Magazine Pictures** (Students can cut out fun pictures from magazines of animals, favorite foods, favorite celebrities, meaningful words, etc.)
- **Clipart** (Students can use a computer to print out clipart pictures)
- **Scrapbook Materials** (stickers, decorative paper, stamps, etc.)
- **Be Creative!** (Bring anything else that you can think of!)

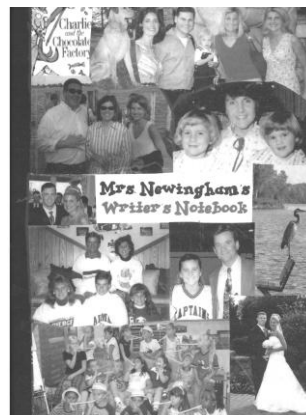
Please help your child choose things with which he or she will decorate the Writer's Notebook. Send the materials to school in an envelope or plastic bag before the end of the week. I am planning to have students decorate their notebooks on Monday.

Once the notebooks are completed, I would like to cover the notebooks with contact paper to protect the pictures and to increase the durability of the notebooks. If you are interested in helping cut the contact paper patterns and cover the notebooks, please send me an email this week. Thanks!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Newingham



Before



After