



# WRITING & TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOPS

Programs for Teachers and Young Authors in Manteca, Lathrop, and Ripon

Great Valley Writing Project works to improve the learning and achievement of students by **improving the teaching of writing in local classrooms.**

Through our Writing & Technology Workshops, GVWP shares resources to help teachers create **active, engaging classrooms** where students assume greater responsibility for their own writing and learning. At the same time, we provide exciting summer workshops where young authors can explore **writing, publishing, and multimedia** technology.

Our year-round professional programs now draw more than twenty teachers each year, and our three-week student workshops serve at least eighty young writers, but those numbers are a small part of the overall picture. When you consider how each teacher implements **revolutionary** changes in their classrooms, improving **learning opportunities** for thirty-four students at a time, you begin to understand how this work **benefits thousands of students in local classrooms each year.**

“I now know how to engage and help students during the process of writing, instead of just at the end.”

– Brenda Madsen, Woodward Elementary

### HELPING TEACHERS:

## Bringing Exemplary Teachers & University Resources to Manteca

Teachers who join the *Writing & Technology Workshop* are talented and experienced educators who want to become masters in the teaching of writing. They work and study as part of a college course sponsored by the **Great Valley Writing Project** at California State University, Stanislaus.

Every teacher spends **over 100 hours** in assigned reading, lesson planning, workshop instruction, and feedback groups. In spring,

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“The class has been a great experience for me. It has provided me with fresh ideas and has given me new excitement for teaching writing to sixth graders in the upcoming year.”

– Sarah Hilson, Sequoia Elementary

teachers join after-school study groups to read research texts and discuss their own experiences. At a three-week summer workshop, they **observe** demonstration lessons and **practice** new techniques with real students. Through the following school year, they attend after-school meetings to receive feedback and support as they test and refine their new skills.

Throughout the program, teachers are challenged to **analyze** their classroom experiences, looking for the reasons behind student

actions. Several quotes from past participating teachers are highlighted on these pages.

**Donations from private sponsors** make this program possible. Teachers receive course textbooks and materials free of charge; they each receive a \$500 budget for additional supplies and coursework to help them improve writing instruction at their school sites.

### SERVING STUDENTS:

## The GVWP Writing & Technology Workshops

The Writing & Technology Workshops are exciting laboratories where teachers apply advanced instructional strategies with real students. With at least **one teacher** for

every **five students**, the program allows close observation and individualized instruction. By offering guidance, encouragement, and time to develop ideas,

teachers help participating students gain new **confidence and skill** as writers.

Using a “workshop” approach that emphasizes both teamwork and individual responsibility, teachers and students work together to create an optimal environment that supports **productivity and learning**. Students attend traditional lessons where they learn important writing skills, but they also meet in small

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“This course offers a wealth of information that forces you to rethink your way of teaching writing.”

– Tim Jensen, Manteca High School

groups, conference with teachers, and spend plenty of time putting pen to paper. Every day,

students spend time in computer labs exploring digital tools for editing, publishing, and multimedia communication.

The workshops draw a wide range of students from grades three through twelve. Participants bring **unique perspectives** from their diverse

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"I discovered a variety of tools and techniques that will help me manage my high school courses... I provide structure, guidance, and accountability, and my students will be given more freedom and responsibility to create wonderful work."

– *Evie Freeman, Delta Charter High School*

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social, economic, and ethnic backgrounds. Students also bring very **different attitudes** about school and writing. Some choose to attend because they love to write; others feel nervous and awkward with writing tasks when they begin. By the end of the first week, everyone discovers **the joy of sharing** interesting ideas with supportive peers.

#### **Student leadership:**

Each year, a number of high school applicants are selected to serve as "Student Coaches" at future workshops. These outstanding young leaders assist in computer labs, update slideshows and websites, and offer ongoing feedback to improve the program. They also work with mentor teachers to polish their own writing projects, including projects intended for potential employers or college admission boards.

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"It was an inspiration to see how far these students could come in such a short period of time!"

– *Genevieve Beltran, Lathrop Elementary*

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If you have additional **questions** about either of these programs, e-mail Melissa King at [mking@sjcoe.net](mailto:mking@sjcoe.net).

#### **Would you like to become a sponsor?**

A sponsorship card and envelope is enclosed in this brochure; if it is missing, call the GVWP office at (209) 667-3490 to ask for sponsorship information.

"Teachers often underestimate students' abilities. This workshop allowed teachers and students to realize their abilities—students accomplished far more than anyone expected."

– *Elyce Ruble, Manteca High School*

#### **MORE INFORMATION:**

## **Join Us As a Participant or Sponsor**

Students and **parents** may visit the workshop website at [www.imeet.sjcoe.net/wtw](http://www.imeet.sjcoe.net/wtw) to find detailed information about our writing

programs. Registration forms for the summer workshops are posted in March. To download an application form, click the "Enrollment" link at the top of the page.

Interested **teachers** or administrators should visit the GVWP website at [www.csustan.edu/gvwp](http://www.csustan.edu/gvwp) — the "Calendar" link offers information about a wide variety of upcoming classes and events. Online enrollment for our "Build a Better Workshop" course opens in March.

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## **SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS:**

Great Valley Writing Project at California State University, Stanislaus is a nonprofit organization that works to improve the learning and achievement of students by improving the teaching of writing in regional classrooms. This work is accomplished through a method that has proven to be very effective: teachers teaching teachers. GVWP offers invitational leadership institutes to prepare highly skilled teachers to assume roles as "Teacher Consultants," then provides university faculty and mentors to assist these teachers with their educational outreach and reform efforts. GVWP Teacher Consultants organize and administer a number of educational improvement programs in the Manteca area; the Writing & Technology Workshops are just one example of their work.

### **San Joaquin County Office of Education**

generously allows use of Goodwin School in Manteca. Each year, SJCOE technicians reconfigure computer networks at the site and provide technical support for the program.

**Woodward Elementary School**, Manteca generously allows use of classrooms and computer labs for our 3rd-6th grade workshop.

**Manteca Bulletin** provides advertising and press coverage for the workshop.

**Give Every Child a Chance** advertises the program to local students and processes application forms for our student scholarships.

## **FINANCIAL SPONSORS:**

The GVWP Writing & Technology Workshops are a gift from local businesses and individuals to their communities. Private donations are used to provide teacher textbooks, student workshop materials, printing, publishing, and food for participants. Donations provide stipends for workshop and computer lab supervisors; they allow more than half of the students to attend free of charge; they also provide classroom supply budgets that allow participating teachers to purchase materials to improve writing instruction at their school sites.

GVWP Teachers are working to expand programs to serve a larger number of students in Manteca, Lathrop, and Ripon. If you would like to contribute in any way, call Great Valley Writing Project at (209) 667-3490.

## **SPONSORS INCLUDE:**

**Brocchini Farms**  
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**Thelma Stewart**  
**Tuff Boy Companies**  
**The Wine Group**



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