

**Riverside Public Schools
63 Woodside Road
Riverside, Illinois 60546**

January 2012

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 many 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.

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 19, 2012 and will be held at Illinois State University in Normal. District 96 is allowed to send three representatives to the conference. These student representatives will be selected in a drawing conducted by the district in January.

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

Student Guidelines:

1. All books should contain school appropriate languages and content for all students to read. There is to be no reference to weapons of violence of any kind. The books may be handwritten or typed.
2. Only one book per author may be submitted and must be from the current school year.
3. Only one author per book.
4. It is not mandatory to illustrate the book. Photography may be used.
5. Books are to be securely bound. Bindings may be sewed, spiral bound, or some other secure way of binding. Hardcover, blank books called "Bare Books", may also be used.

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 submit a book for possible selection for the statewide conference need a signed Conference Consent Form, and their book completely finished by March 17, 2012. Parents need to attend the conference with their children and make travel arrangements to and from the conference.

District 96 Young Authors Committee