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“Children want to write. They want to write the first day they attend school. This is no accident. Before they went to school they marked up walls, pavements, newspapers with crayons, chalk, pens or pencils... anything that makes a mark. The child’s marks say, ‘I am.’”

from *Writing: Children and Teachers at Work* by Donald Graves, 1983, p. 3

Since 1986, Writers Theatre of New Jersey (WTNJ) has fostered the creative imaginations and voices of Madison’s youngest writers through the Madison Young Playwrights Program (MYPP). For the 33rd consecutive year, the MYPP will work with students in **grades 4-8** to develop original one-act plays. Students who enroll in the program will meet after school for ten (10) sessions and work under the guidance of a professional teaching artist from WTNJ. Class time involves creative writing, improvisation and revision. This is NOT an acting program.

Toward the end of the program, a pair of actors will be present at the school to read the student-written plays-in-progress and offer feedback for the writers to use as they revise the scripts. WTNJ staff will read final versions of the scripts after the close of the residency program and an in-school presentation in the spring of 2019 will present about 3-4 plays written during the program.

Additionally, final scripts from Madison students are entered into the NJ Young Playwrights Festival, a statewide competition organized by Writers Theatre. In past years, Madison students had their plays selected for this statewide honor. More information on the next Contest/Festival is available on our website at <https://www.wtnj.org/nj-young-playwrights-contest/>.

Playwriting classes at **St. Vincent Martyr School** are **Tuesdays from 3:15-4:45 pm beginning October 2 and ending December 11 (no class on November 20)**. **Please make note of this schedule when registering your child for the program.**

To register, please complete the online application located at <https://www.wtnj.org/madison-young-playwrights-program/>. On that page, use the tab for ENROLLMENT FORM in the left hand menu.

Registrations must be received **no later than Wednesday, September 26**. *The first 20 students will be selected for the program. You will receive email confirmation from Writers Theatre of your child’s participation in the program.*

We offer the Madison Young Playwrights Program to students free of charge through special arrangement with the Borough of Madison! We look forward to working with your child during an exciting year of fun and creativity. Please contact Jim DeVivo, WTNJ Director of Education with questions – 973-514-1787, ext. 14 or jdevivo@wtnj.org.

