

## ConVal School District

### Handwriting Expectations for Grades K-6

Legible handwriting is necessary for effective communication. Since handwriting is a learned skill, it is imperative that handwriting be taught and practiced. If the mechanical aspect of writing is too demanding, there can be a negative effect on composing processes such as planning, creativity, organization and memory.

Reading the cursive print style is a Proficiency Standard at the end of sixth grade. Proficiency with writing cursive should help students read cursive. After grade four, modeling by teachers is the best way to maintain cursive writing skills.

The following programs will be used in ConVal School District:  
Grades K-2: **Handwriting Without Tears** for manuscript printing  
Grades 3-4: **Loops and Other Groups** for cursive writing

#### **Kindergarten**

Students will develop the motor skills needed for handwriting. Students will write most upper and lower case letters and most digits (0-9).

#### **First Grade**

Students will write all upper and lower case letters and digits (0-9) using correct formation.

#### **Second Grade**

Students will review and refine manuscript letter formation in order to print letters fluently using correct formation.

#### **Third Grade**

Students will review manuscript letter formation to develop increased legibility and speed. Cursive writing will be introduced at the beginning of grade 3. Students will practice cursive writing on a regular basis and write one final copy in cursive (e.g. a friendly letter).

#### **Fourth Grade**

Students will maintain manuscript letter formation. Students will review cursive writing with an emphasis on connecting letters in order to develop legibility and speed. Students will use cursive on a regular basis for written work and write one final copy in cursive (e.g. poetry).

#### **Fifth Grade**

Students will review and practice cursive writing in order to develop increased legibility and speed. Students will use cursive on a regular

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basis for written work and write one final copy in cursive (e.g. review of a book, movie, play, or program).

### **Sixth Grade**

Students will use cursive on a regular basis for written work and write one final draft in cursive (e.g. review of a book, movie, play, or program).