



Dear parent/guardian,

You are receiving this letter because your child will be attending the 2023 Annual Children's Literature Festival (CLF) in Warrensburg, Missouri on either March 6th or 7th. I am writing to share some useful information for you and your student to have in advance.

What is the CLF?

The CLF brings authors and illustrators from all across the United States to the University of Central Missouri campus to engage with Missouri students about their work and lives. Students attend presentations and learn more about authors' journeys to become published writers. Started in 1969, the Children's Literature Festival is the longest-running literature festival in the U.S. that is geared toward children.

How are we funded?

The CLF depends on book sales to help cover at least half of our expenses and usually the other half is generated by our registration costs. Everything we earn goes into the next festival. However, for the second year in a row we are able to waive registration fees thanks to funding from the Missouri Arts Council, the Missouri Humanities Council, and additional funding from UCM's Academic Affairs Office.

What will the day be like for my student?

The CLF is a jam-packed day with 6 sessions starting on the hour from 9am-2pm. Students will often have a break for lunch and use this time to purchase books. Sessions are spread across campus so there is a lot of movement between buildings.

How can I prepare my child for the CLF?

- The most hectic events during the CLF are Book Sales and lunch hours. Attendees are often excited to eat lunch at the fast food restaurants open in our Student Union building. Please consider sending your child with a brown bag lunch.
- Our event serves grades 3-10, which is a wide span of ages. There are books available for all of these grades at the Book Sales area. Please speak in advance with your student about what books might be most appropriate for them. Information about the authors who are attending and links to their websites is available on our website, <https://clf.ucmo.edu/>. The average price of a book is about \$12 with some as low as \$6. We also offer student-designed bookmarks from our annual bookmark contest and small literacy-themed buttons to students for free.

Thank you so much for your time and support. We look forward to another great year of introducing students to the folks behind the books they love!

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