

WV Young Writers Day Schedule 2026

University of Charleston

May 8, 2026

8:00-9:00 a.m.

Registration - Riggleman Hall

9:00-9:20 a.m.

Opening Ceremonies - Riggleman Hall Auditorium

Color Guard: Nitro High School AFJROTC

Introduction: Dr. Maggie Luma, Co-Director, Central WV Writing Project

Welcome: Dr. Beth Wolfe, Executive Vice President of Enrollment Management, University of Charleston

Greetings: Dr. Erika Klose, Director, Office of Academic Support, West Virginia Department of Education

Presentation: Laura Tracy Baisden Exemplary Teaching of Writing Award presented by Dr. Stephanie Burdette

9:20-9:50 a.m.

Keynote Presentation

Rosalie Haizlett, Author and Illustrator

10:00-11:00 a.m.

Young Writers Workshops

Grades 1-2

Julia Black, Erma Byrd Gallery (Riggleman Hall, 3rd floor)

Grades 3-4

Jan Thornton Jones, Appalachian Room (Geary Student Union, 2nd floor)

Grades 5-6

Tammy Donahue, Frankenberger Art Gallery (Geary Student Union, 2nd floor)

Grades 7-9

Michele Zirkle, Riggleman Hall, Room 134

Grades 10-12

Shelly Jarvis, Riggleman Hall, Room 120

Pre-registered Teachers

Michelle Wolfe, Ballroom, 3rd floor of Geary Student Union

Parents and Other Adults

Join Mrs. Debra K. Sullivan for a writing activity in the Commons

11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Lunch

Lunch will be provided for students, their two accompanying guests, and teachers. Due to limited food service staffing, no additional meals will be made available.

Students in grades 1-6 will be dismissed at 11:00 and must be picked up by a parent or guardian for lunch.

Students in grades 7-12 will be dismissed for lunch at 11:10 a.m.

*Box Lunches will be served outside, patio area of the Clay Tower
In the event of inclement weather, lunches will be served in the dining hall.*

11:45-12:15 p.m.

Author Tables and Book Sales

Riggleman Hall Rotunda

12:15-12:45 p.m.

Student Line Up

*Grand Entrance on 3rd floor hallway of Riggleman Hall
Students only - please no parents*

12:45-2:45 p.m.

Awards Ceremony, Riggleman Auditorium

Readings by First Place State Winners

Recognition of County Winners

Please no photos during handing out of certificates; a designated photographer will take photos of all winners. Photos will be posted on the WVDE website: <https://wvde.us/academics/middle-secondary-education/student-events-programs-initiatives/young-writers-day>

3:00 p.m.

Conclusion and Drawing of Door Prizes

*Books and t-shirts will be for sale in the Rotunda in Riggleman Hall.
Authors/Presenters may be available to sign books there from 11:30-12:15 p.m.*