

## **Art, History and the Hudson River, an inspirational summer camp at Clermont State Historic Site**

May 24, 2017

The Hudson Valley Writing Project (HVWP) invites writers, ages 12-16, to join centuries of artists and writers who have celebrated the Hudson River landscape through word and watercolor. “Making Art & History” is a summer program at Clermont State Historic Site, situated on the banks of the Hudson River in Germantown, NY.

Each day as students explore Clermont’s 500 acres, they will find inspiration on the trails and in the gardens, all while learning about the environment, history and events that took place on the historic site with its unique mansion. Eric Fiore, LaGrange Middle School social studies teacher and leader of the program, said, “When young writers examine historical objects through hands-on activities, they try on history (and sometimes, even the clothes worn by the estate owners and workers!). In this process, history comes alive. They start to appreciate how different daily life was in the nineteenth-century!”

HVWP’s Young Writers Programs are designed and led by experienced and passionate teacher-writers who are dedicated to developing the writing and critical thinking skills of students ages 7-18.

“Because we approach history as a living story, there are many entry points for students and the experiences become unforgettable,” said Diane Rawson, Coordinating Director of Youth Programs. “Each year, we see students complete our history-related programs with a renewed confidence in their writing and a deeper appreciation for local history.”

The program, which was originally priced at \$295 for the week, is now on sale for \$150. The sale ends on June 15. Scholarships are still available.

“Making Art & History” will take place July 10-14, from 9am to 3pm at Clermont State Historic Site. The program culminates in a final celebratory reading for family and friends on Friday. For information about registration and scholarships, visit <http://www.newpaltz.edu/hvwp/summercamps> or contact Diane Rawson at (845) 943-8437. For special enrollment opportunities offered by Friends of Clermont, please visit their website <http://www.friendsofclermont.org/young-writers-camp> or call (518)537-6622.

### **About the Hudson Valley Writing Project**

The Hudson Valley Writing Project at SUNY New Paltz, founded in 2001, is a professional development organization whose purpose is to improve the teaching of writing and to promote literacy development in all disciplines and at all levels of education, preschool through college. HVWP teachers help students become successful writers, learners, and participants in their communities. For more information, visit [www.newpaltz.edu/hvwp](http://www.newpaltz.edu/hvwp).