

ENGLISH

The English program is organized around the following areas of instruction: reading, writing, speaking, listening, critical thinking, and research. Aspects of each area are presented during the four years of required English. English electives are offered to those interested in dramatics, creative writing, journalism, public speaking, and humanities. These electives are offered above and beyond the required courses.

Honors/Pre IB, International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement Programs

These courses are offered for students with a deep love of literature who possess highly developed language skills and desire to pursue these interests in a college level English program. They read selections from a variety of periods, styles, and rhetorical contexts to develop critical standards for independent appreciation. The program is designed to prepare successful students for the International Baccalaureate examinations and the AP examination as well. In considering the qualifications of applicants for the program, teacher recommendations, writing samples, and performance on standardized tests will be weighed.

English 1 (Studies)

5.0 credits

Prerequisite: none

English 1 Studies requires students to read literature of limited length selected principally for its appeal and interest to young people. Assignments for students are designed to improve their skills in researching, reading, writing, and vocabulary. Much of the work given is begun in the classroom and students are supervised individually.

English 1 (Advanced, Academic)

5.0 Credits

Prerequisite: none

English 1 emphasizes the basic skills of grammar and mechanics, critical reading of literature, paragraph/essay writing, and vocabulary. Teaching of basic kinds of paragraph writing is designed to build skills needed for correctness of expression and organization. Students are introduced to the mythology of different cultures. Challenging poetry, novels, short stories, and drama are studied. Reading for mastery of content and writing about related

concepts are both emphasized. Students will be introduced to library research skills. Vocabulary study stresses not only meaning but also etymology and words in context.

English 1 (Honors/Pre IB)

5.0 credits

Prerequisite: Current teacher recommendation

Honors/Pre IB English 1 is recommended for the highly motivated student who has demonstrated superior writing ability, language usage and reading comprehension skills. In this course students will be introduced to the intensive study of literature through a study of varied genre. In order to meet the rigorous demands of this reading, a summer reading program in advance of taking this course is required. Composition integral to critical reading, with emphases on sophisticated syntax and accurate, logical expression and expansion of ideas, is stressed.

English 2 (Studies)

5.0 credits

Prerequisite: English 1

English 2 Studies is designed for those students who continue to have reading and writing difficulties and whose skill deficiencies require further strengthening. Where possible, the literary works are increased in difficulty. Writing assignments will involve responses to literary content and personal experience. Students work to strengthen critical thinking, oral skills, and vocabulary skills.

English 2 (Advanced, Academic)

5.0 credits

Prerequisite: English 1

English 2 reviews and reinforces the basic skills and concepts taught in the freshman year. In their speaking and writing, students are expected to demonstrate standard grammatical practices, particularly as a means of varying style. Short essays will use writing techniques designed to provide unity and coherence. Literature will include more challenging novels, poetry, drama, and short stories. Research skills will be developed and applied. Vocabulary study continues stressing meaning, etymology and words in context.

English 2 (Honors/Pre IB)

5.0 Credits

Prerequisite: English 1 Honors/Pre IB or faculty recommendation

This program is designed to challenge the motivated student of exceptional ability. Studying a wide

selection of literature from diverse time periods, genres, and cultures, students explore the abstract ideas and concepts illustrated. They frequently think critically and work independently. Coherence, intelligent analysis, perception of nuances, standard language usage, logical thought and critical thinking skills are developed through essays, commentary papers, oral presentations, research, and in-depth class participation.

English 3 (Studies)

5.0 credits

Prerequisite: English 2

English 3 Studies focuses on giving students with reading and writing limitations special attention. In relatively small classes, students will work with materials designed to stimulate interest in reading, as well as improve writing skills such as sentence structure, organization of thought patterns, vocabulary skills, punctuation and spelling. Students read a variety of materials both in class and outside of class and are encouraged to write about their conclusions based on what they read or experience.

English 3 (Advanced, Academic)

5.0 credits

Prerequisite: English 2

English 3 presents American literature from its inception to the latter part of the twentieth century. Students read a broad sampling of the major works of each significant period. Literature is studied in depth and becomes the basis of research and writing assignments. The focus is on reciprocal effects of literature and historical events as well as the lasting values and qualities of literary works. Principles applicable to effective writing of longer essays are introduced and reinforced. Accent is on further development of analytical reading, listening and speaking skills, note-taking skills, and a sense of aesthetic appreciation.

English 3 (Honors/ IB)

5.0 credits

Prerequisite: English 2 Honors/Pre IB or faculty recommendation

Selections of American literature from its inception through the mid-twentieth century are studied in the context of American culture and the historical period in which they were written. In addition, students will examine British, European, Latin American, and Asian works. College texts are used. Students concentrate on the finer points of style and analysis as well as on the concepts and perceptions that relate to

contemporary interest. Both written and oral commentaries are the critical mode of literary analysis. A major research project is required.

English 4 (Studies)

5.0 credits

Prerequisite: English 3

English 4 Studies is designed for students whose inefficient language and study skills continue to make them challenged learners. Materials consist of literature that is topical, related to adolescent interests and modest levels of inferential abilities. Students' writing will consist of basic exposition and subjective responses to what they read and know firsthand.

English 4 (Advanced, Academic)

5.0 Credits

Prerequisite: English 3

The English 4 course presents English literature from its beginning to the twentieth century. Occasional use of non-British literary works supplements the literary program. Students read a wide variety of literary works including satire and drama. Students will write analytical papers in which they will formally demonstrate research skills. Language difficulties and weaknesses in coherence will be remedied as they arise to strengthen and polish skills.

English 4 (IB/AP)

5.0 credits

Prerequisite: Honors/IB English 3 or faculty recommendation.

This program presents selections from British, American and World Literature from various genres and periods. The course is designed to develop the students' sense of how style, subject, and audience are related. A detailed analysis of these aspects of literature is the aim. Students are expected to initiate ideas and discern inferences common to different literary works. They research and explore ideas independently, writing commentary papers that demonstrate in-depth understanding of specific passages. Two major world literature papers on specific texts are required, as well as other types of written assignments. The activities implemented in the course are designed specifically to help prepare students for the Advanced Placement and IB exams. A major literary research paper is the culminating project.

Full Year Course Electives

Creative Writing (Advanced)

5.0 credits

Prerequisite: English 1

Creative Writing is an elective course for sophomores, juniors and seniors who are able English students and who wish to develop their interest in creative writing. Students will explore the various literary genres and discover their own abilities to create original pieces using language imaginatively. Students will work towards the goal of having publishable work.

Drama 1* (Advanced)**

5.0 Credits

Prerequisite: 9-12

This course fulfills the graduation requirement for Visual and Performing Arts.

The drama course introduces students to basic techniques of acting through improvisations, structured relaxation exercises, theater games, scenes, and monologues. The skills acquired are applied to polished audition pieces. Students gain an appreciation of theater history through oral and written research projects. Plays are analyzed for structure, literary technique, characterization, and staging. Students experiment with methods of transforming written scripts to performed entertainment. The course culminates in students writing, acting, directing and performing their own dramatic works.

NOTE: The Pre-IB level of Drama 1 will focus on the nature of theatre. Students will perform, write, study, and analyze a wide variety of dramatic works. Developing an understanding of theatre history, students will investigate dramatic forms in cultures other than their own. In addition, through practical experience, students will explore behind-the-scenes theatrical production. IB Drama will be committed to preparing students for the International Baccalaureate examination.

Drama 2* (Advanced/IB)**

5.0 Credits

Prerequisite: Drama 1 and teacher recommendation.

This course fulfills the graduation requirement for Visual and Performing Arts

Drama 2 is offered to Drama 1 students who have demonstrated a high degree of proficiency and enthusiasm. These students are responsible for acting and directing scenes and performing monologues which are more challenging than the activities in Drama 1. Students will work on such advanced skills as dialects, external character traits, and various acting

styles. In addition they will analyze and review complex plays, continue to explore the history of theater, and practice playwriting. Finally, it is expected that these students will act as mentors for Drama 1 beginning students.

NOTE: The IB level of Drama 2 will focus on researching several theatre traditions in depth, genre-specific performance skills, and theatre production. Students will choose an individual project and prepare for the International Baccalaureate examination. Students choosing the SL level in Drama may take Drama 2 as sophomores and Drama 3 as juniors. Students choosing the HL examination must take Drama 2 as juniors and Drama 3 as seniors.

The IB 3 students will read, analyze, and perform portions of plays which highlight important time periods in theatre history. Evaluations include a research paper, written production proposal, oral component, and power-point production.

Drama 3* (Advanced / IB)**

5.0 Credits

Prerequisite: Drama 2 and teacher recommendation

This course fulfills the graduation requirement for Visual and Performing Arts

Drama 3 is designed for the student who plans to seriously pursue theater study throughout college and as a future career. Three main components would serve to structure the course: an overview of technical theater, analysis of plays which emphasize eight different theater times and styles, and a focus on playwriting skills. Unlike Drama 1 and 2, Drama 3 students would develop set plans, costume and makeup renderings, directors' prompt books, etc., for scenes they have read from a variety of time periods.

Students will read, analyze, and perform portions of plays which highlight important time periods in theater history and would also stretch their writing skills from group written scenes like those in Drama 1 to individually written one act plays. Evaluations would be in the form of essays, taped performances, and portfolios.

Humanities (Advanced)

5.0 credits

Prerequisite: English 1

This is an introductory humanities course that surveys the social, cultural and artistic history of the Western world. Using an interdisciplinary approach, an overview of the visual arts, music, theater, dance, film and architecture in context with the philosophy, literature, religion, aesthetic theory and political events surrounding them is presented. Students gain a basic familiarity with major styles, some understanding of

the ideological, chronological and technical implications of those styles, and also a feeling for the historical development of individual arts disciplines. The purpose of this course is to view cultures and societies through the study of mankind's creative works.

Journalism: Communications 1 (Advanced)

5.0 credits

Prerequisite: English 1

Journalism is devoted to the further development of good student writers. Able students will be instructed in the basic areas of article writing skills for publications. Students will learn the format of straight news writing, feature writing (historical, human interest, personality, explanatory, analytical) and editorials. Students will apply their writing skills in news reporting and in contributing to school publications. Students will also explore the fundamentals of photo journalism. They are expected to use events in and around the school as a basis for stories, articles, features, and opinion pieces aimed at a specific audience. Since a course goal is to write and take photographs for publication, some time outside of class is needed for researching, interviewing, editing, and related tasks. Students use newspapers, yearbooks and magazines from the library and other sources to develop sophistication in evaluating journalistic quality. Although there are provisions for formal teacher-directed activity, the class for the most part is a workshop.

Journalism: Communications 2 (Advanced)

5.0 credits

Prerequisite: successful completion of Journalism 1, a portfolio, and teacher recommendation.

Journalism 2 is devoted to the student who wishes to pursue journalism on a higher level. Competence will have been shown in Journalism 1, and the student will show an interest to further develop personal journalistic style. The second year journalism student will work toward a crisper style, will investigate additional resources, will further develop sidebars and continuing stories, and will assume positions of leadership on the school paper. Additionally, the student will submit columns and photographs to local papers, investigate outside sources for publications, and assist first year students on a one-to-one basis. Editing, publication design, layout and graphics will also be a focus for the second year student.

Journalism: Communications 3 (Advanced)

5.0 credits

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Journalism 2, a portfolio, teacher recommendation, and the ability to work independently.

Journalism 3 is devoted to the student who wishes to pursue a career in journalism and will continue his studies into college. The student will assume an editorial position and work with first and second year students. In Journalism 3 it is expected that the student will work independently and be self-motivated. In his position as editor, he will be responsible for assignments for his staff, deadlines, and editing. The third year student will use his expertise to investigate additional avenues for journalism students (radio/TV broadcasting, corporate newsletters, yearbook, etc.) A concentration in specialized areas such as photojournalism, layout or design, research, etc. may be pursued by the third year student

Journalism: Yearbook 1 (Advanced)

5.0 Credits

Prerequisite: English 1

Journalism: Yearbook 1 is a fast paced, demanding elective that focuses entirely on the production of the yearbook. This course emphasizes the importance of deadlines while introducing students to journalistic writing, graphic design, photography, digital editing and manipulation, publicity, accounting, and the elements of business management. Students interact with *Adobe Photoshop* and *Adobe PageMaker* in addition to the *Microsoft Suite* in order to create interesting and dynamic yearbook spreads. Organization and time management skills are emphasized within the course.

Journalism: Yearbook 2/3 (Advanced)

5.0 Credits

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Journalism: Yearbook 1, and a student portfolio

Journalism: Yearbook 2/3 focuses on the development of leadership skills in order to facilitate the creation of the yearbook. Students in this course serve as assistant editors and may select an editorial area of specialty in one or more of the following areas: sports, student life, academics, student panel pages, or the senior section.

Students are expected to have advanced knowledge of the technology and the process used to create the yearbook. The journalistic writing skills, design philosophies, and digital manipulation that were introduced in Journalism: Yearbook 1 are further developed.

Media Literacy (Advanced) (WMC Only)

5.0 credits

Prerequisite: English 1

Media Literacy teaches students to analyze, evaluate, and produce media. Students have the opportunity to think about and experiment with their own modes of interpretation to understand where media messages come from, how they are constructed, and

how they reflect society's values. They are encouraged to question, critically analyze, and evaluate all media messages conveyed in advertisements, television talk shows, MTV, sit-coms, reality television, and websites.

Other areas of study include film, radio, magazines, video games, contemporary music, and the Internet. Students make their own media products, with an emphasis on video production.

Semester Course Electives

Film Analysis and Criticism (Advanced)

2.5 credits 1 semester course

Prerequisite: English 1

Film Analysis and Criticism is a course designed to increase students' ability to interpret and appreciate the medium of film. An awareness of and familiarity with cinematic devices and their effect on audience reaction will be central to the course. Films will be presented by genre, including mystery, crime, musical, horror, comedy, science fiction, film noir, among others. Activities and projects will include written reviews, storyboards, and research. Both color and black and white films will be shown dating from the 1930's through the present time.

Public Speaking (Advanced)

2.5 Credits 1 semester course

Prerequisite: English 1

Public Speaking introduces students to the fundamental concepts of creating and delivering speeches. Students are taught various types of speeches: informative, narrative, demonstrative, and persuasive. Students will learn both impromptu and extemporaneous delivery methods. This course is designed to meet the needs of both the novice and experienced speaker. Research skills and use of visual aids are incorporated.

Science-Fiction / Fantasy Literature (Advanced)

2.5 Credits 1 semester course

Prerequisite: English 1

This course is designed to examine the historical and theoretical development of the science fiction genre, from its early precursors in the nineteenth century to contemporary works. Students will read, analyze, and critique works of science fiction and its subgenres (fantasy, horror) as an exploration in their literary merit. In addition, students will explore how the themes and concepts displayed within the text relate to, are influenced by, and influence aspects of the rapidly

changing technological and scientific advancement in the society around them. Students will be expected to formulate and articulate their ideas regarding specific aspects of the individual texts and the genre overall through essay writing, projects, creative presentations, fiction writing, and personal responses.

Sports Literature (Advanced)

(WMC Only)

2.5 Credits 1 semester course

Prerequisite: English 1

Sports significantly influence American culture. This course examines the role that sports play in the lives of millions of Americans and its importance in the American experience. Through both fictional and non-fictional literary works, students will analyze the historical, cultural, and ethical implications of athletics. The role of sports in relation to such topics as class, race, gender, ethnicity, religion, politics, and economics will be explored in order to expand and enhance student understanding of this force in American society. Students will be expected to formulate and articulate insights into this cultural phenomenon through class discussion, reaction papers, essay writing, research projects, and creative presentations.

Themes in Contemporary Literature (Advanced)

(WMM only)

2.5 Credits 1 semester course

Prerequisite: English 1

This course is designed to challenge students to examine contemporary issues and themes through the reading and discussion of biographies, essays, poetry, drama, non-fiction, and fiction. Students will engage in self-reflection and analytical and creative writing. At the end of this course, they will have the tools to analyze and understand the influence that social themes have on contemporary writers and writing.

