

## English Department Curriculum Overview

### 9th Grade

#### Required

English I and  
Reading Skills, or  
English I, or  
English I - Honors

#### Electives

None

### 10th Grade

#### Required

English II or  
English II - Honors

#### Electives

Journalism I

### 11th Grade

#### Required

English III or  
English III - Honors

#### Electives

Journalism I or II  
SAT Prep Eng/Math

### 12th Grade

#### Required

English IV, or  
English IV – Honors, or  
AP English Literature

#### Electives

Journalism I or II  
Classical Literature  
Contemporary Literature  
SAT Prep Eng/Math

**Summer reading is assigned in all English classes.  
Students are tested upon their return to school in August.**

## Course Descriptions (Course listed by grade level)

### Reading \* Phase 1 \* \* 1000300 [Year]

This course provides a basis for the instruction in reading skills. It is open to freshmen only. A focus on the two distinctive areas of the reading process, decoding and comprehension, is provided. The student is prepared for integration of theory and practice, and for silent and oral reading in all content areas. Diagnostic tests administered at the beginning of the course are contrasted with tests administered at the end of the course to gauge student progress. Students are introduced to various activities to develop and promote their study skills. A core text and a variety of supplementary texts are also used.

**Prerequisite:** Recommendation of Principal, Department Chairperson, and Academic Dean based on results of STS Entrance Exam and Placement Test

### English I \* Phase 2 \* SUS/FBF \* 1001310 [Year]

This course is designed to help the student master the skills required for the effective use of standard English including grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. It reviews previously studied composition skills and carries the student further into the study of more advanced skills which lead to better writing. Literature is studied using selections in poetry, short stories, drama, and non-fiction from a literature text. Vocabulary is studied throughout the year using a formal text along with additional material incorporated into the course.

**Prerequisite:** Recommendation of Principal, Department Chairperson, and Academic Dean based on results of STS Entrance Exam and English Placement Test

### English I - Honors \* Phase 3 \* SUS/FBF \* 1001320 [Year]

This course is a more intensive version of English I, designed to encourage reading, grammar and composition, and vocabulary skills. The areas are intertwined throughout the year as an ongoing process. Students are required to illustrate their understanding by means of paragraph development, outlining, theme papers, and personal journals. Students are required to read novels independently and write creative and analytical reports.

**Prerequisite:** 8<sup>th</sup> grade GPA  $\geq$  3.5 with a 95 in Language Arts courses, along with recommendation of Assistant Principal for Curriculum based on results of the STS Entrance Exam and Placement Test.

### English II \* Phase 2 \* SUS/FBF \* 1001340 [Year]

English II is a course that intends to develop skills in writing, comprehension, and vocabulary. Literary terms are used to correspond to selections covered. The course begins with an examination of Greek and Roman mythology offering background and specific stories. Greek drama is studied using the play *Antigone*. The specific literature also includes a play by Shakespeare as well as a class novel each semester. Attention is also given to instruction in grammar skills. Writing is a continuous part of English instruction and students practice writing good outlines and cohesive paragraphs.

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of English I or less than a B+ in English Honors I



**English II - Honors** \* **Phase 3** \* **SUS/FBF** \* **1001350** [Year]

The purpose of this course is to promote academic excellence in English language arts through the study of world literature and through enriched experiences in composition, speech, and listening skills. It encompasses a critical analysis of various genres in literature and frequent practice in composition instruction including the creative, logical, and critical aspects of the writing process. Instruction is also provided in preparation for the PSAT and SAT.

**Prerequisite:** A cumulative GPA  $\geq 3.5$  with a B+ (87-89) or better in English I - Honors or an A ( $\geq 95$ ) in English I with Department Chairperson recommendation

**English III** \* **Phase 2** \* **SUS/FBF** \* **1001370** [Year]

English III seeks to provide the student with an overall view of American literature from the earliest writers to contemporary writers. Integrated into this study are those underlying facets of studying literature: reading, vocabulary, and writing skills. A research paper will be written the second semester. A class novel will be read each semester. The study of vocabulary focuses on both PSAT and SAT skills.

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of English II or less than a B+ in English II - Honors

**English III - Honors** \* **Phase 3** \* **SUS/FBF** \* **1001380** [Year]

The content of this course focuses on American literature at a challenging level. The focus is on critical and creative thinking. Aside from required texts, these students will read two novels independently and write a critical analysis and book review. The study of vocabulary focuses on both PSAT and SAT skills.

**Prerequisite:** A cumulative GPA  $\geq 3.5$  with a B+ (87-89) or better in English II - Honors or an A (95) or better in English II with Department Chairperson recommendation

**English IV** \* **Phase 2** \* **SUS/FBF** \* **1001400** [Year]

English IV covers the literature of Great Britain from 450 to the present according to the following periods: Anglo-Saxon, Medieval, Renaissance, Neo-classical, Romantic, Victorian, and Modern. There are two Shakespearean plays, one novel, and a selection of poetry and essays. A particular emphasis is given to literature as the expression of the time in which the works appeared. Attention is also given to the socio-economic backgrounds and growth of English thought and language. Weekly vocabulary quizzes are given.

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of English III or less than a B+ in English III - Honors

**English IV - Honors** \* **Phase 3** \* **SUS/FBF** \* **1001410** [Year]

This class is composed of students who are considered an accelerated group. The students are encouraged to develop an understanding of both critical and creative thinking skills, and use that knowledge in their writing. Weekly vocabulary quizzes are given. Students learn how to develop themes and topics, and use the cluster technique for organization and outline preparation. They also concentrate on writing creative introductions, a thought provoking body of content, and an ending that adequately draws a conclusion and supports the thesis statement. During the second semester, emphasis is directed toward developing an understanding and appreciation of the development of the English language. The evolution from pagan through religious to secular writing is noted while reading and discussing selected British works. The course work begins with Anglo-Saxon times and extends into twentieth-century Great Britain. Also available for dual enrollment credit.

**Prerequisite:** A cumulative GPA  $\geq 3.5$  with a B+ (87-89) or better in English III - Honors or an A (95) or better in English III with Department Chairperson recommendation

**AP English Literature/Comp** \* **Phase 4** \* **SUS/FBF** \* **1001430** [Year]

In this course students are involved in the critical reading of literary works. Through such study, they sharpen their awareness of language and their understanding of the writer's craft. They develop critical standards for the independent appreciation of any literary work, and they increase their sensitivity to literature as shared experience. To achieve these goals, students study the individual work, its language, characters, action, and themes. They consider its structure, meaning and value, and its relationship to contemporary experience as well as to the times in which it was written. Summer reading is assigned and the students will read, analyze and write reports for these novels in addition to the required work.

The first semester is an introduction to paragraph and expository writing. The desired goals are the honest and effective use of language and the organization of ideas in a clear, coherent, and persuasive way. The emphasis in the second semester is placed upon critical thinking, evaluating and writing based on works of recognized literary merit. The study of British Literature as well as



preparation for the Advanced Placement English exam will take place throughout the course. Students enrolled **must** take the AP exam in May. Fee required for the AP exam. This course is also available for dual enrollment credit.

**Prerequisite:** A cumulative GPA  $\geq 3.5$  with an A- (90) or better in English III- Honors or A (96) or better in English III with Department Chairperson recommendation. **The student must take the AP test at the end of the year. Cost is set by the College Board.**

*The following English courses are considered electives. They do not satisfy any graduation requirements.*

**Classical Literature** \* **Phase 2** \* **SUS/FBF** \* **1005340** [Semester]

The purpose of this course is to provide instruction in the critical reading and analysis of classical literature as an avenue of enjoyment and as a background for further literary study. The novels used in this course will provide insight on issues such as search for value, search for a place in society, search for political and/or religious identity, and for aesthetic expression. The course will promote skills in analytical reading and writing.

**Prerequisite:** B+ or better in English III or B- or better in English III – Honors

**Contemporary Literature** \* **Phase 2** \* **SUS/FBF** \* **1005330** [Semester]

The purpose of this course is to study works of major contemporary writers as they reflect modern culture, its characteristics, problems, and values. The course will allow students to read and analyze contemporary fiction, poetry, drama, and nonfiction with emphasis on theme, style, and characterization. The course will direct students to use skills in analytical reading and writing.

**Prerequisite:** Classical Literature, B+ or better in English III or B- or better in English III – Honors

**Journalism I (Newspaper)** \* **Phase 2** \* **SUS** \* **1006300** [Year]

Journalism I is an introductory course to print media, specifically the study of newspaper journalism and the production of the school newspaper. Students learn how to produce a tabloid-size newspaper and journalistic-style writing.

**Prerequisite:** A- or better in current English class **and** approval of journalism teacher

NB: Students transferring from other schools who were enrolled in a journalism course must prove mastery of certain skills before being able to enroll in this course. The alternative for those who transfer, but are not proficient, is to become a member of the Sabre Press Club.

**Journalism II (Newspaper)** \* **Phase 2** \* **SUS** \* **100310** [Year]

Students in Journalism II assume the leadership roles in producing the school newspaper. Excellent writing and mechanics skills are required, as is a good command of vocabulary.

**Prerequisite:** B+ or better in Journalism I **and** approval of journalism teacher

NB: Students transferring from other schools who were enrolled in a journalism course must prove mastery of certain skills before being able to enroll in this course. The alternative for those who transfer, but are not proficient, is to become a member of the Sabre Press Club.

**Journalism I (Yearbook)** \* **Phase 2** \* **SUS** \* **1006300** [Year]

Journalism I is an introductory course to print media, specifically the study of journalism and the production of the school yearbook. Students learn how to produce a yearbook and journalistic-style writing.

**Prerequisite:** A- or better in current English class and recommendation of yearbook advisor

NB: Students transferring from other schools who were enrolled in a journalism course must prove mastery of certain skills before being able to enroll in this course. The alternative for those who transfer, but are not proficient, is to become a member of the yearbook staff with approval of the advisor.

**Journalism I I (Yearbook)** \* **Phase 2** \* **SUS** \* **1006310** [Year]

Journalism I is an introductory course to print media, specifically the study of journalism and the production of the school yearbook. Students learn how to produce a yearbook and journalistic-style writing.

**Prerequisite:** A- or better in current English class and recommendation of yearbook advisor

NB: Students transferring from other schools who were enrolled in a journalism course must prove mastery of certain skills before being able to enroll in this course. The alternative for those who transfer, but are not proficient, is to become a member of the yearbook staff with approval of the advisor.

