

English Language Arts (ELA)

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Department Leader**

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Required English Language Arts Credits: 4.0 credits

SUGGESTED PROGRAM OF STUDY 9TH-11TH GRADES

9 th Grade
English 1 OR Honors English 1*

10 th Grade
English 2 OR Honors English 2*

11 th Grade
English 3 OR AP Language & Composition

NOTE: Honors Courses MAY require summer assignments—letter can be obtained from your guidance counselor, your English teacher, or the school webpage.

All students need 4 credits of English to graduate.

All students need English 1, English 2, and English 3 (or honors equivalent).

Upper grade levels have more choices in their English options.

Students may wish to double up on English, taking both an elective and a core course at the same time.

New English Elective for 9th-10th Grade

READING LITERATURE FOR PERSONAL ENRICHMENT

057590

Duration: Semester

Grades: 9-10

Credit: .5 English

Prerequisite: Freshman or sophomore standing only; must be taken concurrently with English 1 or 2

This course provides all students the opportunity to read, enjoy, and share ideas about books of their choice. Students will choose books for their reading level and complete post-reading comprehension questionnaires. A student's reading comprehension will be tracked throughout the semester. Sixty percent of class time will be reserved for individual reading; the remaining 40% will be used for enrichment writing and discussion of ideas in the works, whereby students can practice written response skills as well as small group discussion skills. The vision for this course is to develop the confidence and desire to make reading a life-long habit.



SUGGESTED PROGRAM OF STUDY 12TH GRADE

	Core Courses	Honors Courses	English Electives (English credit offered)
Semester 1	English 4A	AP Literature and Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creative Writing• Comparative Mythology*• Creative Writing Nonfiction (must be enrolled in upper level journalism class)• Film and Composition• Intro to College Writing• Poetics of Hip Hop
Semester 2	English 4B	AP Literature and Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creative Writing• Comparative Mythology• Creative Writing Nonfiction (must be enrolled in upper level journalism class)• Film and Composition• Intro to College Writing• Poetics of Hip Hop

NOTE: *Not all elective classes may be offered both semesters. You may not choose which semester you enroll in the course.*

**Comparative Mythology MAY also be offered virtually.*

Many choices for the 4th Credit of English

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS ELECTIVES

	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
Creative Writing 1			X✦	X
Poetics of Hip Hop			X✦	X
Comparative Mythology			X✦	X
Creative Writing Nonfiction (must be enrolled in upper level journalism class)			X✦	X
Film and Composition			X✦	X
Introduction to College Writing (needs recommendation from department)				X
Reading Literature for Personal Enrichment	X✦	X✦		

✦ Must be concurrently enrolled in English 1 in 9th grade, English 2 in 10th grade, or English 3 in 11th grade

What other classes can I take?

**Should I take
Honors English?**

Honors English 1 Recommended Criterion

Student desire	<i>students should want to be in the Honors English 1 class (indicated by student survey)</i>
High School ELA Readiness Profile (listed below)	<i>students should see themselves as more aligned with the Honors Student Profile (describe below)</i>
Middle School Letter Grades in English classes	<i>typically an A- or higher is recommended</i>
Academic Responsibility Grades	<i>typically a 3 in each category is recommended</i>
Writing Skills	<i>typically students who exceed expectations on most writing assignments are recommended</i>
Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI) Score	<i>typically a 1200 or higher is recommended</i>

English 1 Readiness

- I am a strong reader and writer
- I am diligent and hard-working.
- I enjoy challenges, but may need help with complex problems and critical thinking.
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- I prefer to have a strategy modeled so I can learn it and apply it to new problems or situations.
- I am comfortable sharing ideas and having discussions with my classmates.
- I like to analyze different forms of communication, and learn how to apply new ideas to my own writing, reading, and speaking.

Honors English 1 Readiness

- I am **passionate** about reading and writing.
- I am **self-motivated** and have a strong work ethic.
- I master **rigorous** concepts **quickly**.
- I love challenges. I can solve complex problems and often **think more critically than I'm asked to**.
- I prefer to ask questions and **figure out** the best strategy or theory behind a concept **on my own**.
- I am comfortable having my **ideas** discussed and **challenged** by my classmates.
- I love to **think critically** about what I read, see, and hear, have thought provoking discussions, and **discover** ways to apply what I learn to my own academic work.

Academic Struggle

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Opportunity for Learning

Strong Background Knowledge

Reading

- Comprehend & analyze of grade-level texts
- Has comfort with fiction, nonfiction, and poetry
- Has strategies to decipher difficult texts

Speaking

- Support perspectives & judgments with convincing evidence
- Deliver presentations
- Add to discussion without prompting, building on or respectfully refuting classmates' ideas

Writing

- Write a process paper (multi-paragraph)
- Develop main ideas with supporting evidence

Grammar conventions

- Use varied sentence types
- Use subordination, coordination, apposition to indicate relationship between ideas
- Use correct punctuation, spelling and capitalization

Frequently Asked Questions

Why should I take Honors?

- Exposure to more reading and writing opportunities.
- Faster paced curriculum
- Preparation for rigorous college material.

But what if I get a B?

- Learning vs. Grades
- Challenges for self and future

Frequently Asked Questions

How many honors classes should I take?

- Different for every student
- Other commitments?
- Tolerance for stress?
- Passion for learning? For subject?
- Long term goals?

Frequently Asked Questions

How much work should I expect?

- Regular English Classes
 - 20-40 minutes per class period
 - 15-30 pages of reading per assignment
- Honors/AP English Classes
 - 30-60 minutes per class period
 - 25-50 pages of reading per assignment

Frequently Asked Questions

Is there required summer work?

- We hope all students will read widely.
- Each class is different, but there has been some summer requirement for **honors** classes--we'll see.

Summer work is not to be a punishment, but what allows honors classes to hit the ground running from day 1.

Frequently Asked Questions

What if I need help?

- Meet with teacher during lab or make an appointment before or after school
- Work with National Honors Society Tutors
- By recommendation: Intervention classes

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I move back into honors if I leave?

- Difficult, but possible--earlier the better
- AP is more difficult to come in at semester and NOT recommended

Frequently Asked Questions

When do I get to take all of the cool classes?

- Each year there are more elective possibilities
- Most electives are semester courses, so you can add on easily
- Choose electives that interest you--they all earn English credit and they all focus on the the four main ELA components: reading, writing, speaking, listening

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