

English Course Offerings

All students in grades 9, 10, and 11 are required to take English I, II, and III. Grade eleven students may take additional English semester electives. Grade twelve students may choose English IV levels I, II, or IV, or they may select any two semester electives, which are linked, one of which is a writing block course. Since English III and English IV courses all contain a writing block, only senior students electing semester electives need to select one writing block class. The English Department recommends that students take one credit of English each year unless an English teacher recommends otherwise.

Major Subjects

- English I
- English II
- English III
- English IV
- AP English Literature and Composition
- Advanced Theater Study
- British Literature
- Contemporary Literature
- Literature of Sports & Recreation
- Mythology
- Shakespeare
- Advanced Composition
- Basic Composition
- Creative Writing
- Sports Writing

Electives

- Advanced Reading/Study Skills
- Intro to Journalism/Mass Media
- Oral Communication
- Reading Enrichment Strategies
- Print Journalism
- PSSA Reading/Writing
- Public Speaking
- Theater Study

(0101) English I C/C - (9)

Level I

(0102) English I - (9)

Level I

Year Course Meets daily
Credit Value 1.0

This class will focus on basic competency skills in the areas of reading, writing, grammar, and literature. The class will use the workshop approach. Literature texts and selected classics will be studied. **Writing assessment and mid-term and final portfolios are course requirements.**

(0103) English I - (9)

Level II

(0104) English I - (9)

Level III

Year Course Meets daily
Credit Value 1.0

This required course is designed to meet the needs of all students entering grade nine. It includes an intensive study of grammar and examines various literary genres including the short story, novel, drama, and poetry. Proper usage of grammar will be correlated with Process Writing composition skills. Students will be assigned to the next year's level based on their academic performance and teacher recommendation. **Writing assessments are course requirements for all levels.**

(0105) Honors English I - (9)

Level IV

Year Course Meets daily
Credit Value 1.0

This course is designed for students wanting enrichment beyond Level 3, students who have an interest in pursuing communications as a career, or students with a passion for literature, language, and writing.

Areas of study include classic literature, grammar, vocabulary, writing skills, and library/research skills. Although this class shares a basic curriculum with that of other ninth grade English classes, it is designed to include numerous enrichment activities and enrichment assignments. In addition, students are expected to take part in self-guided instruction and independent study. **Four book analysis projects are course requirements in Honors English I.**

A recommendation from the 8th grade language arts teachers is strongly suggested.

(0106) English II C/C - (10)

Level I

(0107) English II - (10)

Level I

(0108) English II - (10)

Level II

(0109) English II - (10)

Level III

Year Course Meets daily
Credit Value 1.0

This course, which is required of all tenth grade students, emphasizes language activities that show the specific pleasures and the advantages of writing in a familiar literary form. Concentration is on the study of five types of literature examined this year. Grammar and usage will be reviewed with intensive work on verbals, capitalization, and punctuation. Students should choose subject-level based on past performance and teacher recommendation. **An I-Search paper related to a career and writing assessments are course requirements.**

(0110) Honors English II - (10)

Level IV

Year Course Meets daily
Credit Value 1.0

This course is designed for students wanting enrichment beyond Level 3, students who have an interest in pursuing communications as a career, or students with a passion for literature, language, and writing.

Areas of study include classic literature, grammar, vocabulary, writing skills, and library/research skills. Much of the writing in Honors English II will be related to literature, and the successful completion of the I-Search paper is a course requirement. Although this class shares a basic curriculum with that of other tenth grade English classes, it is designed to include numerous enrichment activities and enrichment assignments. In addition, students are expected to take part in self-guided instruction and independent study. **A novel project is also required in Honors English II.**

A recommendation from the 9th grade language arts teacher is strongly suggested.

(0111) English III C/C - (11)

Level I

(0112) English III - (11)

Level I

Year Course Meets daily
Credit Value 1.0

The level one course is designed for the non-college bound student. The course is structured to meet the language communication needs of those students who desire a full year of review and drill in fundamental language arts skills. Basics in grammar and composition will be emphasized the entire year, with some special assignments requiring outside reading in American Literature and writing. **English III is a required course for all juniors. A research paper will be required.**

(0113) English III - (11)

Level II

Year Course Meets daily
Credit Value 1.0

The level two course is designed as an alternative primarily for the college bound student or possibly the general student. The course will include a study of grammar and composition and a general study of American literature. The study of research techniques and vocabulary building skills will be a part of the course. **English III is a required course for all juniors. A research paper will be required.**

(0114) English III - (11)

Level III

Year Course Meets daily
Credit Value 1.0

This level three course is designed for the college bound junior. The course will combine the American Literature curriculum and the Conventions of Language & Research Techniques curriculum. **English III is a required course for all juniors. A research paper will be required.**

(0115) Honors English III - (11)

Level IV

Year Course Meets daily
Credit Value 1.0

The focus of this class is American literature for the advanced student. The level III content will be expanded and enhanced to challenge the accelerated learner. The course is designed to meet the needs of students who are talented in the area of language arts, motivated to learn independently, and passionate about the field of literature and writing. **English III is a required course for all juniors. Literary analysis essays, projects, creative writing, and a research paper are course requirements.**

(0116) English IV C/C- The World of Work - (12)

Level I

(0117) English IV - (12)

Level I

Year Course Meets daily
Credit Value 1.0

English IV - level I is designed for the student who is interested in some type of post-secondary school, the military, apprenticeship, or on-the-job training. The course utilizes the text *The Art of Work: An anthology of Workplace Literature*. Students will read poetry, short stories, essays, and a play which deal with various aspects of the world of work and life. Authors are both traditional and contemporary, representing a balance in gender and cultural heritage. Each piece of literature is selected with the interest of the student in mind. Writing assignments will be both school and work related.

(0118) English IV - (12)

Level II

Year Course Meets daily
Credit Value 1.0

This course is designed as an alternative for the college-bound senior or possibly the general student planning additional post high-school training. The course will include a study of British literature and a continuing study of the English language, vocabulary, usage, and composition based on literature, creative writing, and practical composition. **A research paper is a course requirement.**

(0119) AP English Literature and Composition - (12)

Level IV

Year Course Meets daily
Credit Value 1.0

The senior (year-long) AP Literature and Composition course (developed according to suggestions of the College Board) will be structured similarly to an introductory course at the college level, and college level readings will be used. The course is primarily intended for people who plan to concentrate in the humanities in college. Students will be exposed to many of the canonical classics of Western literature as well as some pieces in translation and contemporary works of high literary merit. Students will learn how to discover meaning in literature by being attentive to language, image, character, actions, arguments, and the various techniques and strategies authors use to evoke emotional responses from readers. Students will be expected to justify their interpretations by reference to details and patterns found in the text, to compare their interpretations with those proposed by others (teachers, classmates, and published literary scholars), and to be prepared to modify their own interpretations as their skills develop.

- Summer reading with follow-up essays will be evaluated by a committee of English faculty, who will ultimately determine the participants.
- Toward the end of the year on a specified date, AP English students may choose to participate in the testing program provided by the College Board.

(0125) Advanced Theater Study - (11)

Level III

Year Course Meets daily
Credit Value 1.0

The purpose of this course will be to acquaint the serious drama student with all aspects of the theatre. Each component of drama will be studied in depth for students to gain a better understanding of what goes into a performance they view. Attention to class participation and involvement of students will play a heavy role in determining grades. Units of study will be the following: history of drama, texts of plays, writing reviews and drama related critiques, acting, directing, stage lighting, costuming, set design, and make-up. Students will also be expected to complete a research paper on a noted playwright. Students will rehearse and put on productions to elementary schools and/or perform, direct, and produce plays in the high school auditorium. Students will complete theater participation hours at various local and school-related theatrical events. Theater Study is NOT a prerequisite for this course.

(0121) British Literature - (11)

Level III

Semester Course Meets daily
Credit Value 0.5

Through an ordering of works that is both chronological and thematic, this course will highlight the major classics of the literature of Great Britain. The novel will be covered independently by the students through book reviews. Other major genre will be treated both in class and through nightly reading/writing assignments. The general objectives of the course are 1) to comprehend the relationship of the seminal works of Britain with the attitudes of their time periods and 2) to hone critical skills and close reading techniques. Students should come to the course with the fundamental reading and composition skills to enable them to digest and to write clearly about literature that covers the widest spectrum of styles in our curriculum.

(0123) Literature of Sports and Recreation - (11)

Level II

Semester Course Meets daily
Credit Value 0.5

The course will include the literature of sports and recreation and the relation of sports to life and human values as seen through the eyes of contemporary and classic writers. Various readings and activities--poetic, nonfictional, fictional, and research-based--will provide the students with high-interest exposure to the world of sports, its figures, its history, its issues, and its participants. Students will be required to keep a weekly journal to record their reading and thoughts in regards to articles on various sports-related topics.

(0128) Mythology - (11)

Level II

Semester Course Meets daily
Credit Value 0.5

The level two course work will center on Greek, Roman, and Norse mythology. Reading and composition will grow out of a study of myths, fables, and legends, with required study of all types of literature, old and new, within a mythological framework.

(0129) Honors Mythology - (11)

Level IV

Semester Course Meets daily
Credit Value 0.5

The level IV course, which centers on the mythology of the Greeks and Romans, will give the college bound student a fundamental background to aid in the understanding of mythological allusions in other literature courses and in other fields of study. The required readings, which will be extensive and intensive, will be on a college level. College level writing skills will be reviewed, required, and assessed on frequent, challenging composition assignments. **The completion of three projects is a course requirement.**

(0130) Contemporary Literature - (11)

Level III

Semester Course Meets daily
Credit Value 0.5

As members of this class, students will explore contemporary issues and themes as they appear in poetry, fiction, and drama. Major objectives for students in the class are as follows:

- attain a deep understanding of literary elements and their importance to the themes of a work
- develop the ability to effectively write about literature in a manner consistent with expectations of college literature classes
- recognize the ability of literature to convey issues and themes central to the human condition

Students will be required to complete two research projects.

(0133) Shakespeare - (11)

Level III

Semester Course Meets daily
Credit Value 0.5

Shakespeare is a semester course for the academic student in grade 11 or 12 who has a basic background and a strong interest in the works of William Shakespeare. Students will study the life works of the author, the Elizabethan theater, the historic era, and the language of Shakespeare by reading plays, poems, and informative articles. Students should expect to be involved in a variety of activities and projects: writing essays and an original sonnet, acting in class, designing play-based projects, and viewing/critiquing film and/or live performances. The final examination includes a required project that demonstrates understanding of course work.

LANGUAGE BLOCK COURSES -
(0148/0149) Advanced Composition - (12)

Level III

Semester Course Meets daily
Credit Value 0.5

Course work is aimed at preparing the students for college writing including studies of literary models. The emphasis will be on developing a variety of effective techniques and exploring the possibilities of style, tone, and creativity of approach. Among the six required 2 to 4 page compositions will be subjective and objective description, argumentation/persuasion, literary criticism, social criticism, and definition.

Because this course is a level three academic course, meeting at least two of the following criteria is very **strongly recommended** for the benefit of students who would like to enroll in this class:

1. Attainment of an A or B average in a previous level three class.
2. Successful completion of English III or Basic Composition first.
3. Positive recommendation of a previous English teacher.

This course is for seniors. Juniors who wish to elect this course may do so only with the permission of the instructor. **The completion of six essays is a course requirement.**

(0142) Basic Composition - (11)

Level II

Semester Course Meets daily
Credit Value 0.5

This course work aims at helping students to achieve competence in fundamental writing skills. There will be a strong emphasis on applying basic knowledge of grammar to Process Writing skills. The types of writing explored will be narration, description, exposition, character sketch, prose/poetry criticisms, analysis, argumentation/persuasion, and creative writing. **Eight essays must be submitted to fulfill course requirements.**

(0143/0144) Creative Writing - (11)

Level III

Semester Course Meets daily
Credit Value 0.5

Creative Writing is a one semester, level III course designed to meet the needs of those students who are strong writers and wish to explore their own creative use of the written word. Students will examine different genres of writing and will work on improving their own writing conventions (mechanics and usage). Students will be expected to write and revise often and to create well-developed pieces which meet expectations based on the five areas of the Pennsylvania Writing Assessment: Focus, Content, Style, Organization and Conventions and will be required to publish those pieces orally for their class and work toward submitting pieces to publishers. Creative Writing satisfies one of the language block requirements.

(0145) Sports Writing - (11)**Level II**

Semester Course Meets daily
Credit Value 0.5

The course is designed to introduce and provide workshop experience for students interested in sports journalism. The instruction will follow a fundamental approach to the structure and content of sports writing in a variety of mediums including news and feature style. Students will be exposed to the world of the sports reporter and participate in the development of sports articles. Students will be expected to write and edit both independently and with supervision, and they must be prepared to study the work of professional sports writers. Students will be evaluated on their participation and writing skills.

(0150) Advanced Reading and Study Skills - (9)**Level II**

Year Course Meets two times per week
Credit Value 0.4

This course is designed for students reading on or above grade level (9-12+) who wish to develop flexibility in reading, critical reading skills, critical thinking skills, vocabulary, advanced comprehension, and study skills. This is *not* a remedial reading class.

(0153) Intro to Journalism/Mass Media - (9/10)**Level II**

Year Course Meets two times per week
Credit Value 0.4

This course is designed for the student who wants to learn the fundamentals of journalism and mass media. It offers experiences in news, feature, editorial and sports writing as well as editing, copyreading and layout. This course will also offer an introduction to magazines, radio, and television. Students will be expected to complete regular reading and written work.

(0155) Oral Communications - (9)**Level II**

Semester Course Meets four times per week
Credit Value 0.4

Oral Communications is an introductory course in the speech arts and sciences. The course will help students to cope with the varied communication demands of today's academic and work world by helping them (1) to understand themselves as communicators, (2) to accept responsibility for their communication, and (3) to be sensitive to the communication attempts of others. Through differentiated instruction the course will incorporate the use of technology tools by allowing students to use their knowledge of presentation technology such as Power Point, Prezi, Glogster, Smart Board, etc. Today's work increasingly requires students to become polished speakers and presenters, capable of using up-to-date technology with skilled presentation ability. Enhance your future! Become a better speaker with more confidence and poise! **Six major speeches must be completed to fulfill course requirements.**

(0158) Reading Enrichment Strategies - (9/10 only)**Level II**

Year Course Meets two times per week
Credit Value 0.4

This course is designed for students who are interested in improving their basic reading skills. Students will learn Reading Apprenticeship strategies to practice while reading a variety of literary types. These strategies include reading independently and critically, improving vocabulary, and practicing analysis and interpretation of literature. This course is not designed for students reading at or above grade level.

(0159) Print Journalism – (11)

Level III

Year Course Meets three times per week
Credit Value 0.6

This course is designed not only to cover the basics of writing for a newspaper but also to examine more closely the areas of media law, layout, and interviewing. The students in this course will be responsible for the writing and editing of articles as well as for the layout of the school newspaper, *The Beacon*. Students should have strong writing and grammar skills as well as the ability to meet deadlines. Students will also work to develop portfolios of their work. Because these students will make up a portion of *The Beacon* staff, they will need to attend several summer sessions to prepare for the first issue of the newspaper.

(0160) Public Speaking - (10)

Level III

Year Course Meets two times per week
Credit Value 0.4

Purposeful activities emphasize individual growth in social sensitivity and in effective participation in the democratic processes. The student is given opportunities to clarify ideas, to consider the audience, to acquire poise, to evaluate and appreciate speech needs, to observe and listen intelligently, and to assume responsibility for group participation. The problems of speech composition are treated in a methodical manner, and emphasis is placed upon efficient delivery in communicating speech extemporaneously. Public Speaking is especially designed for those intending to meet the public or for those wishing to improve upon established skills in communication. **A prerequisite of passing Oral Communications with a grade of B is required.**

(0162) PSSA Reading/Writing (10 only)

Level II

Year Course Meets two times per week
Credit Value 0.4

The purpose of the course is to present content and strategies aimed at improving the participants' scores on the reading/writing portions of the PSSA. The class will utilize teacher led instruction and the PLATO Learning System to review specific English curriculum standards and benchmarks.

(0165) Theater Study - (9/10 only)

Level II

Year Course Meets two times per week
Credit Value 0.4

Theater Study...to expand one's perception of himself as an actor. After examining the history of drama, students will participate in group plays and impromptu skits, enact self-productions, write critical reviews, and demonstrate polished skills through monologues. "Drama" will be viewed as a literary genre, and its components will be analyzed, including theater mechanics. Thirteen units will be studied; types of theater discussed may include Greek, Comedy, Melodrama, Farce, Tragedy, Allegory, and Fantasy. Drama students are expected to participate in one production. Students are required to perform in front of the class and to work in group situations. Mid-term and final exams will manifest both written and oral skills. **Students are required to be Level II, III or IV English students.** Additionally, this course emphasizes practical, real-world speaking situations as well as more formal forensics presentations.