

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

ACADEMIC PLACEMENT

Course prerequisites are guidelines set for the purpose of placing students in the academic course, with the appropriate level of academic rigor. Please refer to pages 6 & 7 for school guidelines on academic placement. For appropriate recommendation, it is advised that students and parents consult with their current academic teacher and their assigned school counselor.

HONORS ENGLISH 9

(#0065)

Periods Per Week: 5

Prerequisites: 89% or above in English 8

Credit Value: 1.0

Semester: Full Year

Open to Grade: 9

Honors English 9 is a course designed for students with strong capabilities and motivation to excel in the field of academic English through a wide variety of literature in all phases of the English Language Arts program: reading, writing, speaking and listening, using journals, projects, technology, class discussions, research, and writing. Literary analysis will include tone, mood, point of view, figurative language, and other aspects of literature. This program consists of an in-depth approach to the basic curriculum. Students move at a fast pace; therefore, additional materials, novels, and concepts are introduced. A few prime focuses in this course will be an *Odyssey* unit focused on archetypes, a *Romeo and Juliet* unit focused on juxtaposition, a *Frankenstein* unit focused on morals, and a *Night* unit focused on the impact of silence. Throughout the year, there is a focus on a more in-depth approach to the basic 9th grade writing assignments focusing on paragraph development, using concrete details, correct word choice, supporting text/details with citations, effective transitions, and structured sentences. Throughout the 9th grade year, independent study is emphasized, and opportunities for creativity present themselves in writing assignments and dramatic presentations.

ENGLISH 9

(#0070)

Periods Per Week: 5

Prerequisites: 60% or above in English 8

Credit Value: 1.0

Semester: Full Year

Open to Grade: 9

English 9 is designed to introduce students to the expectations of high school English. Throughout the course, students will experience all phases of the English Language Arts program: reading, writing, speaking and listening. Units in this course may include Essentials of Literature, Heroics, Fate, and Perspectives. Writing assignments completed throughout the year focus on paragraph development, descriptive and concrete details, correct word choice, effective transitions, and structured sentences. Speaking and listening skills will be practiced daily. Grammar will be a part of the daily routine and reviewed weekly through varied activities. Library skills will be practiced through reports, projects, and/or research.

HONORS WORLD LITERATURE 10**Credit Value: 1.0****(#0050)****Periods Per Week: 5****Semester:****Full Year****Prerequisites: 80% or above in Honors English 9****Open to Grade:****10**

Honors World Literature 10 is a rigorous course designed for students with exceptional ability and a continuing interest in English Language Arts. Students explore various areas of writing and are required to complete several timed writings and formal research compositions. Students experience a continuing growth in writing styles and mechanics through conferencing, editing and revising. Throughout the year, students read, analyze, and interpret world literature representing many cultures. They study famous authors' works, lives, and times. History, geography, and art relevant to the literary works also are presented. Furthermore, student in Honors World Literature 10 participate in a rigorous vocabulary study to ensure sufficient preparation for the SAT. Viewing, speaking, creating and listening skills of students improve through involvement in Socratic Seminars, discussions, debates, lectures, group projects, and formal presentations.

WORLD LITERATURE 10**Credit Value: 1.0****(#0055)****Periods Per Week: 5****Semester:****Full Year****Prerequisites: 60% or above in English 9****Open to Grade:****10**

World Literature 10 is designed to move students toward mastery of the skills practiced in English 9. The course consists of four comprehensive units studied through the lens of World Literature: Elements of Tragedy, Culture, Conflict and Identity, The Maturing Hero, and Effects of Colonialism. For each unit, students will read and analyze a variety of thematically linked fiction and non-fiction texts. They will practice using text-based evidence in a variety of forums including both informal and formal writing assignments, class discussions, and oral presentations. An emphasis on conducting and conveying research is a part of each unit.

HONORS AMERICAN LITERATURE 11**Credit Value: 1.0****(#0035)****Periods Per Week: 5****Semester:****Full Year****Prerequisites: 80% or above in Honors World Lit. 10****Open to Grade:****11**

Honors American Literature 11 is designed for self-directed students who aim to develop mature critical reading, writing, and speaking skills. The focus of the course is a study of the American identity through a variety of reading and writing assignments. In addition to the study of full-length novels, poetry, and non-fiction, students are required to produce at least one research paper utilizing MLA citations.

AMERICAN LITERATURE 11**Credit Value: 1.0****(#0040)****Periods Per Week: 5****Semester:****Full Year****Prerequisites: 60% or above in World Lit. 10****Open to Grade:****11**

American Literature 11 will continue to move students toward mastery of the skills practiced in English 10. The course consists of four comprehensive units, which are all centered on the American identity. For each unit, students will read and analyze a variety of thematically linked fiction and non-fiction texts. They will practice using text-based evidence in a variety of forums including both informal and formal writing assignments, class discussions, and oral presentations. Research will also be a part of each unit.

HONORS ENGLISH LITERATURE 12**Credit Value: 1.0****(#0020)****Periods Per Week: 5****Semester:****Full Year****Prerequisites: 80% or above in Honors Amer. Lit. 11****Open to Grade:****12**

Honors English 12 is a rigorous course requiring a significant amount of reading, writing, and research for the purpose of preparing each student to pursue a higher education after high school. The course work will include a variety of fiction and nonfiction literary works organized into thematic units. In the first 9 weeks (and probably part of the second), George Orwell's *1984* will be the core text. We will focus on the theme of personal freedom as it relates to technology as well as our ability and willingness to think independently and to better understand where we get our information. At the conclusion of the *1984* unit, each student will write a 3–4-page APA style research paper. After we complete *1984* and the research paper, we will begin Unit 2 which will focus on two literary works in which both authors challenge the status quo as it applies to women's rights. The core texts for this unit will be Virginia Woolf's *A Room of One's Own* and Henrich Ibsen's *A Doll's House*. Unit 3, which will begin sometime during the third 9 weeks, will focus on the concept of leadership. Shakespeare's *Hamlet* will be the core text along with some select speeches delivered by Winston Churchill during World War II. Unit 4 will focus on satire and realism and how literature can influence the thinking of a society. The core texts will be Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* as well as select short stories from James Joyce's *The Dubliners*. The core texts for each unit will be supplemented with nonfiction readings that relate in theme. Students will also analyze literary criticism of each core text to become accustomed to academic writing and its unique challenges.

ENGLISH LITERATURE 12**Credit Value: 1.0****(#0025)****Periods Per Week: 5****Semester:****Full Year****Prerequisites: 60% or above in American Lit. 11****Open to Grade:****12**

English Literature 12 is designed for students who plan on attending a two- or four-year college or university. The course consists of four comprehensive units: Nonconformity, Leadership and Power, Satire, and Heroism/Societal Values. For each unit, students will read and analyze a variety of thematically linked fiction and non-fiction texts. They will practice using text-based evidence in a variety of forums including both informal and formal writing assignments, class discussions, and oral presentations. A research project will also be a part of each unit.

PRACTICAL CAREER ENGLISH**Credit Value: 1.0****(#0030)****Periods Per Week: 5****Semester:****Full Year****Prerequisites: None****Open to Grade:****12**

Practical Career English offers students the opportunity to refine and improve personal reading, writing, and speaking skills necessary for career success. Students will be exposed to fiction and nonfiction literature and discover how it relates to society and to life. Emphasis will also be placed on writing, vocabulary, technology, and research.

**A.P. ENGLISH LANGUAGE
& COMPOSITION****Credit Value: 1.0****(#0010)****Periods Per Week: 5****Semester:****Full Year****Prerequisites: A.P. Criteria****Open to Grade:****11**

Advanced Placement English Language and Composition course gives students a college-level experience and the opportunity to earn college credit and/or advanced placement while still in high school. Students will explore a wide breadth of nonfiction texts and visual rhetoric from various historical periods and disciplines. Students learn to explore the rhetorical situation of the text, identify claims and evidence; develop a line of reasoning and commentary; and strategically use words, comparisons, and syntax to convey a specific tone or style in an argument. Additionally, students will explore the various modes of rhetoric in their writing assignments including narrative, process analysis, comparison and contrast, definition, division and classification, and cause and effect writing. Student essays are submitted in draft form and proceed through stages of rigorous revision aided by peers and the instructor. As a college course, an objective of English Language and Composition is for students to achieve mastery of writing in subsequent college courses and in their professional endeavors. Upon completion of this course, students should be able to read complex works with understanding and appreciation and to write prose that is advanced enough for mature readers. Taking the A.P. Examination is an expectation of the course.

A.P. Test Date: May 2025**Test Cost:** \$98 (2024)**Registration Deadline:** See Teacher**Summer Assignment:** Yes

**A.P. ENGLISH LITERATURE
& COMPOSITION****Credit Value: 1.0****(#0015)****Periods Per Week: 5****Semester:****Full Year****Prerequisites: A.P. Criteria****Open to Grade:****12**

A.P. English Literature and Composition is a college-level English course designed to focus on the critical reading of poetry, drama, and prose fiction written in or translated into English as well as scholarly written commentary about those works. In-class critical discussion will center on an author's techniques, style, and tone as well as thematic and archetypal concepts within the work. A variety of written assessments will assess the student's ability to form and defend ideas related to the literature studied. Active participation in the class is expected as a vital means of developing and testing a student's individual ideas. As a culmination, students are expected to take the Advanced Placement Literature and Composition examination, a national test given in May of each year that may allow the student to earn college credit.

A.P. Test Date: May 2025**Test Cost:** \$98 (2024)**Registration Deadline:** See Teacher**Summer Assignment:** Yes

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS ELECTIVES

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP 1

(#0370)

Periods Per Week: 5
Prerequisites: None

Credit Value: .5

Semester: Either
Open to Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Creative Writing Workshop will give students the opportunity to explore a variety of approaches to craft and style while developing their discipline as writers. Our class time will be devoted in part to a daily writing regime and guided explorations of styles and techniques in a variety of writing genres. Students will get opportunities and encouragement to share their writing with larger audiences through workshops, performance, and publication opportunities. We will read and discuss contemporary masters and their works of poetry, fiction, non-fiction, stage-plays, and film. By the end of this course students will have created a body of work that will be graded as a whole at the conclusion of the semester.

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP 2

(#0375)

Periods Per Week: 5
Prerequisites: 60% or above in Creative Writing Workshop 1

Credit Value: .5

Semester: Either
Open to Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Creative Writing Workshop 2 will deepen and broaden the foundations established in Creative Writing Workshop. Students will have further opportunities to develop a variety of approaches to craft and style. We will delve further into editing, rewriting, and publication using several formats of writer's workshops. Our class time will be devoted in part to a daily writing regime and guided explorations of styles and techniques in a variety of writing genres. Students will be given further opportunities and encouragement to share their writing with larger audiences through workshops, performance, and publication opportunities. We will read and discuss contemporary masters and their works of poetry, fiction, non-fiction, stage-plays, and film. By the end of this course students will have edited and published at least one piece of writing and will have a portfolio which will be graded as a whole, at the conclusion of the semester.

THE LANGUAGE OF ACTIVISM

(#0385)

Periods Per Week: 5
Prerequisites: None

Credit Value: .5

Semester: Either
Open to Grade: 10, 11, 12

Language is a powerful tool for positive change and our nation's strength is exhibited through the language of activists who fought against the oppression and injustices of the past and those who continue the fight today to secure a better future. The *Language of Activism* course explores the role that literature, language, writing and the media have had in social justice movements throughout American history from the American Revolution, Abolition, Women's Rights, Labor, Civil Rights, Anti-War, LGBTQ+, to current-day activism. Students will gain an understanding of the role of writing and communication in bringing about social change and of how various social movements have impacted human history. Furthermore, students will be introduced to some of the nation's most influential activists and their idea and will draw comparisons to various social movements. Students will analyze primary sources including articles, letters, speeches, poetry, songs, photographs, and political cartoons while developing skills in critical thinking, close reading, public speaking, research, analysis, and writing. Finally, this learner-centered course will empower students to make choices about their own learning and to explore the content through Socratic Seminars and class discussions.

DRAMA/THEATER ARTS 1**Credit Value: .5****(#0400)****Periods Per Week: 5**
Prerequisites: None**Semester: Either**
Open to Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Drama/Theater Arts 1 students interested in the production, performance and perception of live theater will explore their dramatic skills through the Stanislavski Method of Acting. They will experiment with music, voice and movement, costumes and make-up, set design and technical production through individual scene work and improvisation. Students will also examine and reflect on other stage productions and write theater criticism based on those productions. Students will develop a complete and comprehensive study on the dramatic art and present a culminating activity in a live stage production.

*This course may require after school rehearsals.

DRAMA/THEATER ARTS 2**Credit Value: .5****(#0405)****Periods Per Week: 5**
Prerequisites: 60% or above in Drama/ Theater Arts 1**Semester: Either**
Open to Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Drama/Theater Arts 2 students who wish to continue their study of dramatic art through more specific acting scenes will more extensively work with music, voice and movement, costumes and make-up, set design and technical production. During this course, students will also actively explore contemporary and historical dramas, directing, production, production management, and voice-over acting through self-discovery, character studies, field trips, and guest-speakers. Students will continue to examine and reflect on other stage productions and write theater criticism.

*This course may require after school rehearsals.

JOURNALISM**Credit Value: .5****(#0360)****Periods Per Week: 5**
Prerequisites: None**Semester: Either**
Open to Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

The primary focus of Journalism is to develop the writing and interpersonal skills required in any field of journalism from broadcast to print. Students will learn how to adapt their writing to a concise journalism style, conduct effective interviews, write a wide variety of stories (including news, features, opinions and sports) and use computer programs to design newspaper pages. Journalism begins by exposing students to the history of journalism and how it has helped shape our country from the Revolutionary War to today. Students will then learn the laws of journalism before engaging in debates over ethical issues that journalists deal with on a regular basis. Students will then start working on “nuts and bolts” of interviewing, writing, editing, etc.

Students will have the opportunity to interview many people from classmates to former students to teachers to administrators to local personalities such as athletes, politicians or media members. Journalism will culminate with a project in which students will create their own newspaper based entirely on stories they have written.

ADVANCED JOURNALISM/ NEWSPAPER**Credit Value: 1.0****(#0365)****Periods Per Week: 5****Semester: Full Year****Prerequisites: 60% or above in Journalism****Open to Grades: 10, 11, 12**

Students in Advanced Journalism will be in charge of the production of The Oracle, the student newspaper of the high school. The class will produce several print publications during the school year and students will also have the opportunity to publish stories online which will be posted to a website hosted by USA Today.

Students involved in Advanced Journalism will be expected to write stories, conduct interviews, peer edit/evaluate, design newspaper pages, take photographs, etc. Advanced Journalism is a class that will benefit students interested in any field of journalism, not just newspapers. The skills developed are required in all fields from broadcast to print.

*After-school time is required to meet deadlines.

PEOPLE SKILLS**Credit Value: .5****(#0380)****Periods Per Week: 5****Semester: Either****Prerequisites: None****Open to Grades: 10, 11, 12**

While it is difficult to define what “people skills” are, it is easy to identify people who may need to enhance their people skills. In this course students will learn to interact with other people effectively and become aware of how their own behavior impacts other people and the outcome of certain situations. The differences of purpose and motivation, personality, ethnic and religious variations, gender, class, and ability can all present social challenges. This course provides powerful ideas for preventing people problems, resolving conflict and building harmonious relationships, in school, at home, and in workplaces. Students will build skill and confidence to successfully communicate in verbal and non-verbal ways to advance leadership ability, interpersonal skills, problem-solving skills, and skills in conflict resolution.

YEARBOOK**Credit Value: 1.0****(#0359)****Periods Per Week: 5****Semester: Full Year****Prerequisites: 70% or above in current ELA course****Open to Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12**

Yearbook is a course designed to empower students in the production of the *Spectrum*, the Shaler Area High School yearbook. Throughout the course, students will learn about the history, purpose, and structure of yearbooks and will be responsible for the creation of the *Spectrum* from start to finish. Students will learn and incorporate many facets of journalism including interviewing, writing, editing, photography, layout and design, desktop publishing, business, and advertising. Students are faced with, and will be expected to manage, real life experiences from meeting deadlines, successfully working as a team, and engaging with the public in an unbiased and reliable manner. This course is sustained through hardworking and independent individuals. Students in Yearbook have the unique opportunity to capture the voice of Shaler Area High School in a single publication.

*After-school time is required to meet deadlines.