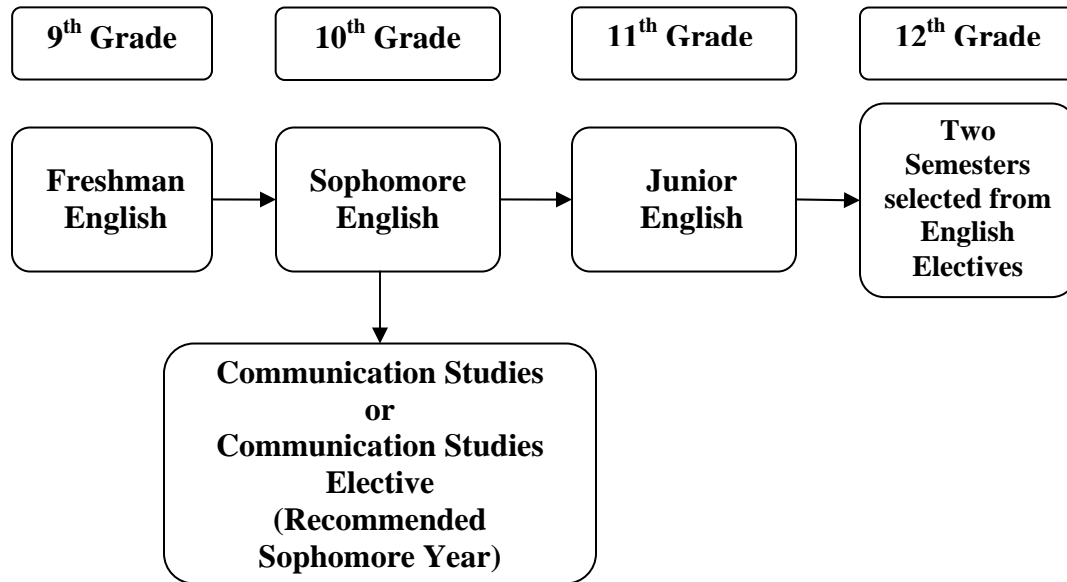


# ENGLISH PROGRAM

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The English program of the District 200 high schools is designed to develop and enrich the language skills of all students through writing development and practice, exposure to quality literature, and consistent practice in all areas of the communicative arts.



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## ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION (A)

**Length:** *Two Semesters*

The Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition course is designed to engage students in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Through the close reading of selected texts, students can deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. The course requires intensive study of representative works from various genres and periods, concentrating on works of recognized literary merit.

Writing is also an integral part of the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition course, for the Advanced Placement Examination is weighted toward student writing about literature. Writing assignments focus on the critical analysis of literature and include expository, analytical, and argumentative essays. The goal of writing assignments is to increase students' ability to explain clearly, cogently,

even elegantly, what they understand about literary works and why they interpret them as they do.

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## APPLICATIONS IN WRITING (I)

**Length:** *One Semester*

**Grade:** *12*

Applications in Writing is designed to meet the needs of those students who struggle with writing; it has as its goal improved writing techniques and skills. Students who select this course are most likely junior college or workplace bound and need more direct instruction in skills, grammar, and organization. The goals of this course include improved grammar and vocabulary, reinforced organizational strategies in writing and experience in workplace writing including the creation of a portfolio. This course may be taken as a final culminating writing course or may be taken as a preparation for Senior Rhetoric.

# ENGLISH PROGRAM

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## **ARGUMENTATION (I, A)**

*Length: One Semester*

*Grades: 11, 12*

*Prerequisite: Freshman English and Sophomore English*

Argumentation focuses on the theoretical as well as practical concepts of human communication in a cooperative/competitive environment. Through the oral experiences of problem solving in-group discussion, persuasion in an audience, and argumentation in a variety of formats, the student will have the opportunity to develop the higher processes of oral communication. The emphasis on research and thinking and listening skills will accentuate the quality of mental cooperation and clash through the oral tasks of the course.

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## **BRITISH LITERATURE (I)**

*Length: One Semester*

*Grades: 11, 12*

British Literature is designed to study the literature of Britain from the Anglo-Saxon period through the 20th century. Representative examples of drama, poetry, short stories, essays, and novels will be studied. Through class discussions, close reading of literature, and a variety of writing experiences, the student will learn the tools of critical analysis in order to make logical, analytical conclusions about a piece of literature.

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## **COLLEGE LITERACY SKILLS (A, I)**

*Length: One Semester*

*Grades: 12*

College Literacy Skills offers students the opportunity to sharpen the reading and writing skills necessary to meet the challenges of the college experience. This course offers skill-intensive instruction to gain proficiency in the areas of independently selected modern and classic novels, numerous creative structured and informal writings, grammar review, vocabulary enhancement, reading strategies for a variety of texts and genres, and research skills.

## **COMMUNICATION STUDIES (R, I, A)**

*Length: One Semester*

*Grades: 10, 11, 12*

Communication Studies meets the English graduation requirement and is designed to improve the student's research, organization, analysis, writing, speaking, and listening skills. A variety of communication experiences will be studied and performed as the major focus of the course. The skills mastered in this course are applied throughout the entire high school curriculum.

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## **COMPOSITION, LITERATURE, AND FILM (I)**

*Length: One Semester*

*Grades: 11, 12*

*Qualifies for: Fine Arts Credit or English Elective Credit*

Composition, Literature, and Film offers students the opportunity to sharpen their critical and observation skills by exploring film in the media. Through generous reading, writing, and viewing experiences, students will thematically and chronologically trace the influences of film and filmmaking on popular culture. The course is designed for students interested in developing and increasing their knowledge of the history, techniques, and impact of film on society and the individual.

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## **CREATIVE WRITING (I)**

*Length: One Semester*

*Grades: 11, 12*

*Qualifies for: Fine Arts Credit or English Elective Credit*

Creative Writing is designed to provide a suitable climate for students interested in exploring writing forms and structures that include short story, poetry, lyrics, nonfiction prose, drama, and other forms of fiction. Instruction includes an examination of the techniques used by creative writers and the evaluation of student writing.

## **DRAMA (I)**

*Length: One Semester*

*Grades: 10, 11, 12*

*Qualifies for: Fine Arts Credit or English Elective Credit*

Drama is an exploration of the dramatic form in literature and stage. Topics include dramatic vocabulary, the techniques of performance, development of an appreciative understanding of dramatic literature, and the history of drama. Examples of dramatic literary forms will be presented for analysis. Techniques of directing these various forms will be included. Techniques of performance and character development will be part of the student involvement.

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## **FRESHMAN ENGLISH (R, I, A)**

*Length: Two Semesters*

*Grade: 9*

Freshman English is a one-year course integrating the study of language and communication. A variety of literature is explored by genre: short story, poetry, novel, drama, and nonfiction. Writing assignments include journaling, formal essays (expository, persuasive, narrative), and creative writing. Outcomes for freshman year focus on specific skills in reading and interpreting literature; writing a variety of clear, well-constructed compositions; thinking critically and creatively; managing information and technology; organizing time and study skills; speaking and listening; and personal skills.

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## **INTRODUCTION TO ACTING (I)**

*Length: One Semester*

*Grades: 10, 11, 12*

*Qualifies for: Fine Arts Credit or Communication Study Credit*

Introduction to Acting is designed to help students improve character analysis skills, understand themselves as a performer, and improve their acting and improvisational skills. Students will study different styles of acting and apply those styles to their performances. Students will be assessed by their research, effort, and performance of monologues, soliloquies, duet performances, and group performance projects. Body movement will

reinforce these skills and vocal exercises along with improvisational activities.

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## **JOURNALISM (I)**

*Length: One Semester*

*Grades: 11, 12*

Journalism is concerned with five basic areas of journalism: the mass media and the newspaper's role, parts of the newspaper, writing newspaper stories, newspaper staff organization, and newspaper production. The course is designed for the student interested in newspaper reporting. The student becomes informed about the various branches of the mass media and continues to learn the basics of journalism through actual news assignments for the school paper.

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## **JUNIOR ENGLISH (R, I, A)**

*Length: Two Semesters*

*Grade: 11*

Junior English integrates advanced principles of composition with the study of American literature. Various writing experiences are included, with special emphasis on literary analysis and research. The study of American literature exposes the student to fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama. Both semesters include the reading of texts by American writers of diverse backgrounds.

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## **ORAL INTERPRETATION (I)**

*Length: One Semester*

*Grades: 10, 11, 12*

*Qualifies for: Fine Arts Credit or Communication Study Credit*

Oral Interpretation explores the creativity of language through oral expression. Students practice organizational principles related to storytelling, poetry, and verse readings. An expectation of the course is that students apply skills and knowledge necessary to create and perform artistic pieces adapted from literature, stage, film, and other media. The expectation may include public performance of specific pieces of dramatic art. Students are expected to demonstrate memorized material delivered with interpretative skill and style.

## **POETRY (I)**

*Length: One Semester*

*Grades: 11, 12*

Students in this contemporary poetry course will study poetry of the last fifty years from song lyrics to poems being written and published today. They will investigate and discuss themes, trends, styles, devices, voices, and methods of presentation. Throughout the course, students will discuss, write about, and present poems to various audiences. Note: this is a literature class. The focus is on the study of poetry rather than the writing of poetry.

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## **POPULAR LITERATURE (I)**

*Length: One Semester*

*Grade: 12*

Popular Literature is designed to provide senior students with an opportunity to explore personal preferences in reading in order to broaden students' reading experiences and encourage life-long reading habits. The emphasis in this class will be on independent choice of reading material, journal writing, and conferencing with the teacher on each book read. This class is appropriate for students who want to grow as readers and who are capable of independently motivating themselves to succeed.

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## **PSYCHOLOGY AND LITERATURE (I)**

*Length: One Semester*

*Grade: 12*

*Credit: ½ credit English and ½ credit Social Studies*

Psychology and Literature is a cross-curricular, two-period, team-taught class that offers students the opportunity to earn both an English and Psychology (social studies) credit. This class is designed to connect the current Psychology curriculum with literature such as novels, short stories, poetry, and essays selected to reinforce concepts common to both subject matter areas. Basic psychological principles will be learned and applied as they reveal themselves through the literature read. This course will stress student interaction, discussion, and experimentation.

## **READING FOR COLLEGE (A, I)**

*Length: One Semester*

*Grades: 11, 12*

Reading for College is a college preparation course intended to improve critical reading, thinking, writing, and test-taking skills. Students are required to read college-level titles including fiction, essays, and non-fiction material. Students will expand vocabulary through practice with Latin roots and material from The Princeton Review research relative to SAT and ACT examinations.

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## **READING LAB (I)**

*Length: Multiple Semesters*

*Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12*

Reading Lab is intended for students who seek to improve all levels of reading performance. Reading skills are assessed and individualized reading interventions are designed for the purpose of improving reading skills for success in high school and increasing interest in reading for lifelong learning.

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## **SENIOR RHETORIC (I)**

*Length: One Semester*

*Grade: 12*

Senior Rhetoric is an elective course in writing for seniors who are planning to go to college. It is designed as a final course in writing for seniors in order to give them additional preparation for the level of writing that colleges require. The course covers four areas: early problems of writer's stance and outline, grammar/application, seven strategies for developing themes and writing better themes, and handling specific assignments such as writing a persuasive argument, the literary paper, and the research paper. In the process of covering the units of study in mastering expository writing, each student will write a number of carefully prepared themes with necessary revisions as suggested by the instructor, two in-class themes, and a final research paper.

# ENGLISH PROGRAM

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## **SOPHOMORE ENGLISH (R, I, A)**

*Length: Two Semesters*

*Grade: 10*

Sophomore English takes a thematic approach to the study of literature, writing, thinking, and speaking. Through the exploration of the various broad and transcendent themes, students learn to analyze fiction and nonfiction; compose clear and well-organized expository, narrative, persuasive, and creative pieces of writing; work cooperatively in groups; use available technology effectively; and think critically and creatively. This course builds on the skills and concepts introduced in Freshman English.

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## **STRUCTURE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE (I)**

*Length: One Semester*

*Grades: 11, 12*

Structure of the English Language is a grammar course designed to teach concepts of English words, sentences, syntax, structure, and composition. The course includes drill and practice in spelling, vocabulary, grammar, and practical applications to punctuation, capitalization, and other mechanical skills.

## **SURVEY OF MODERN LITERATURE (I)**

*Length: One Semester*

*Grades: 11, 12*

Survey of Modern Literature is an English elective on the junior/senior level that introduces students to a wide selection of modern authors through modern novels, short stories, and drama. The general goal of the course is to develop knowledge and understanding of modern literature in its varying themes so that the students may increase their range of ideas, their sensitivity to themselves and others, and their ability to enjoy modern literature. Selected works may include mature themes and language.

## **THEMES IN LITERATURE (I)**

*Length: One Semester*

*Grades: 11, 12*

Themes in Literature is a course designed to provide students with in-depth coverage of one particular theme/topic from the vast collection of available literature. Each year the high school English departments identify the particular theme to be offered by each school. Themes may include African-American literature, modern poetry, classic poetry, women in literature, and others as suggested by current trends in literature education. The course includes extensive reading within the theme area, active class discussion, and a final paper/project drawn from the theme area. The themes are selected prior to the registration process and are available from the assigned counselor and/or any English teacher at the respective high schools in January.