

PROGRAM

Grade 9

In the 9th grade, students receive 7 hours of English instruction per week. There is no established model for the 9th grade; students engage in literary work in a variety of genres and at different levels. The themes of the five units covered during the academic year include empathy and personal bias, horror, the Great Depression, poetry, and the story of a hero. The main writing areas consist of structured paragraphs, comparison-contrast essays, persuasive essays, short stories, poetry, and paragraph synthesis.

Literary works read in class: *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian* by Sherman Alexie; **Various Horror Readings** by Bram Stoker, Stephen King, Joyce Carol Oates and others; *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck; **Various Poems** by poets of the 19th and 20th century; **Various Myths** from a variety of sources

Grade 10

In Grade 10th, English is taught five hours per week. The central theme is stepping into adulthood. Students explore novels, plays, non-fiction work, and comics. The main writing areas consist of analytical essays, cause and effect essays, personal narratives, and creative writing.

Literary works read in class: *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger; *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare; **Various Psychology Readings** by several prominent 20th century psychologists; *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi

Grade 11

In Grade 11th, students receive six hours of English instruction. The themes covered during the year in regular classes are power, oppression, and rebellion. Students review the types of writing they previously studied, such as persuasive essays and literary analysis, while also studying new analysis models that include an intensified research project and a Shakespeare play project. In consideration of the university applications to be made one year later, two more short units are covered for students to write their individual essays and personal statements.

Literary works read in class: *Antigone* by Sophocles; *1984* by George Orwell; *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare; *Maus* by Art Spiegelman

Grade 11 AP Language & Composition

Students who choose AP English in Grade 11th also receive six hours of English instruction. This program is completely different from the regular 11th grade English program, and by enabling students to focus on three different types of essays, namely persuasive, rhetoric analysis and synthesis, it prepares them for the AP Language exam they will take in May. The course is enriched with fiction and non-fiction stories.

Literary works read in class: *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde; *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote; *Welcome to the Monkey House* by Kurt Vonnegut; **Various Non-Fiction Readings** by authors from the 18th-21st centuries

Grade 12

In Grade 12, students receive six hours of English instruction. Our primary goal is to prepare students for the requirements of university-level reading and writing assignments. Fiction and non-fiction texts are equally studied during the course. While building onto the skills they acquired in previous years, students also engage in critical writing.

Literary works read in class: *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald; *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams; **Various Short Stories** by a number of 20th century authors; **A Bildungsroman** (chosen at student discretion)

Grade 12 AP Literature & Composition

Students who choose AP English in Grade 12 also receive six hours of English instruction. This program is completely different from the regular Grade 12 English program. Students read a variety of works starting from the Shakespeare era, including prominent fictional literature, poetry, and theater. Throughout the academic year, the course focuses on making connections between texts. The units include intertextuality, Shakespearean tragedies, poetry, modern and post-modern narratives, and women in literature. A significant portion of the course consist of preparation for the AP Literature exam to be taken in May.

Literary works read in class: **Various Intertextual Readings** by authors from ancient times to the present; *As I Lay Dying* by William Faulkner; *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare; **Various Poetry in English** by poets from 1600-1950; *A Room of One's Own* by Virginia Woolf; **Various Short Stories** by authors of the 19th and 20th century

ELECTIVE COURSES

AP Capstone

AP Capstone is a research-based, four-hour, two-year program offered to Grade 11 and 12 students. In the first year, students learn research methods, and in the second year, students work on an individual research project. This course is more skill based as opposed to content based. Students who complete both years of this program are eligible for receiving an AP Capstone certificate. Students who complete 4 AP courses within two years and receive a score of 3 or above on the exam or eligible for receiving an AP Capstone Diploma.

Creative Writing

This course, which spans the entire academic year, is offered two hours per week to Grade 10 and 11 students. Students reinforce their writing skills partly by studying literature and mostly through writing workshops that they conduct with other students in the course.