

ENGLISH

The English department serves the entire school population through a relevant curriculum in the basic areas of reading, literature, written composition, speech, and grammar. The program is designed to motivate students and to meet a wide range of achievement at various academic levels including Advanced Placement (Grades 11 and 12); Honors (Grades 9 through 12); College Preparatory (Grades 9 through 12); and General (Grades 9 through 12). Students must earn four credits in the non-elective program.

REQUIRED SKILL LEVELS IN ENGLISH

HONORS

- Reading level: two years or more above grade level
- Ability to write with few punctuation or sentence construction errors
- Ability to display complex, abstract thinking
- Ability to move quickly through challenging material
- Very high degree of success in previous English classes
- Teacher recommendation

COLLEGE PREPARATORY

- Reading level: one year or more above grade level
- Ability to read critically and analytically
- Ability to write using good grammar and displaying clear, logical thinking
- Ability to work quickly and independently
- High degree of success in previous English classes
- Teacher recommendation

GENERAL

- Reading level: on grade level or slightly above or below
- Possesses basic skills in writing, vocabulary usage, speaking, and studying
- Teacher recommendation

NOTE: Students enrolled in each of the three levels are expected to have a motivation level sufficient to attend on a regular basis, seek extra help, and complete assignments on time, with help from the classroom teacher and/or resource teacher.

ENGLISH COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Full Year

Credit 1.00

Weight 1.02

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 whose English proficiency is determined to be in need of development.

Description: The ESL program is designed to assist English language learners in adapting to American culture and in acquiring English for both communicative and academic purposes. Individual needs in the four skills areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing are addressed.

ENGLISH 9 - GENERAL (2201)

Full Year

Credit 1.00

Weight 1.02

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grade 9.

Description: The General English 9 course is designed to begin to provide the necessary preparation for a variety of post-secondary opportunities. This course focuses on improvement in basic reading and writing skills. Units of study are provided in literature, composition, and vocabulary, with an emphasis on organizational and study skills. Summer reading is required.

ENGLISH 9 - COLLEGE (2301)

Full Year

Credit 1.00

Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grade 9.

Description: The course goals are to familiarize the motivated student with a cross-section of literature, to help the student express him/herself creatively and coherently, and to teach the student to think critically. In addition, this course provides instruction in the first part of a four year writing program. To help achieve these goals, the English department gives the student a brief overview of mythology, introduces the student to Shakespearean plays, and explores the novel. Outside readings, compositions, vocabulary, and speaking skills supplement the course, giving the student the background necessary for future experiences in the language arts. Summer reading is required.

ENGLISH 9 – HONORS (2401)

ENGLISH 10 - HONORS (2402)

ENGLISH 11 - HONORS (2403)

ENGLISH 12 - HONORS (2404)

Full Year Credit 1.00 each

Weight 1.06

Prerequisites: Prior successful completion of a previous college or honors level English course is highly recommended.

Description: The Honors program is intended for the highly motivated student who is interested in literature and has a high level of mastery of the basic language skills: reading, speaking, and writing. The honors courses present the same basic curriculum as the corresponding college-preparatory courses. The difference will be in the enrichment activities, the advanced level of work, and the distinct units of literature designated for that level. There will be more in-depth exploration of units by greater sampling of related materials and of cultural aspects; increased class participation; and, with some units, an increased pace. This program will provide a base from which the student may progress more easily to the next year. Summer reading is a required enrichment activity.

ENGLISH 10 - GENERAL (2203)

Full Year Credit 1.00

Weight 1.02

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grade 10.

Description: This course is designed to continue the preparation for either entrance to the workforce or admission to community or technical colleges. Core units involving elements of composition, reading, grammar, listening, speaking, study skills and vocabulary development are taught. Carefully selected materials assist students in achieving positive results while challenging them to improve their skills. Although writing skill development remains the primary focus, students will be strongly encouraged to develop an enjoyment of reading of both interest-based young adult literature and classics. The application of study skills will continue to foster success in the completion of each unit. This course prepares students for the March CAPT. Summer reading is required.

ENGLISH 10 - COLLEGE (2302)

Full Year Credit 1.00

Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grade 10.

Description: College Preparatory English 10 is designed to prepare motivated students for more serious academic work. Literature by type is a major focus. Formal grammar, formal exposition, vocabulary building, and speech techniques are also stressed. In addition, this course continues a four year writing program and prepares students for the March CAPT. Summer reading is required.

ENGLISH 11 - GENERAL (2204)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.02

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grade 11.

Description: The General English 11 program combines a survey of American literature in a chronological sequence that parallels the required junior course in American history with an exploration of a unit's major theme. In addition, vocabulary development includes an acquaintance with PSAT skills according to class needs. The composition program expands the elements of writing with a focus on transitions. Grammar and mechanics are taught and related to the students' writing. Lastly, study skills are reviewed and applied in each unit.

Summer reading is required.

ENGLISH 11 - COLLEGE (2303)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grade 11.

Description: The purpose of any college preparatory English course is to broaden the motivated student's horizons and prepare him or her for advanced study. The areas of concentration in the junior year are three: usage (vocabulary and grammar), composition, and an analysis of American literature: selections from the 1600s to the 1800s during the first semester and selections from the 1900s during the second semester. During this survey, emphasis is also placed on developing the ability to discern the stylistic elements representative of each author. Preparation for the PSAT and SAT is provided. Summer reading is required.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION**Grade 11 (2500)**

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.08

Prerequisites: This course is intended for highly successful Grade 11 students who have completed Honors English 10 with a recommended average of 90 and who have an aptitude for writing and have their English teacher's recommendation.

Description: The Advanced Placement course in English Language and Composition will prepare highly motivated Grade 11 students for the College Board Placement Test. It will emphasize expository and persuasive writing and will provide a study of past A.P. Language tests and samples. The curriculum will include the works of renowned essayists, a variety of literary terms, challenging vocabulary lessons, and a brief introduction to some aspects of American Literature. Summer reading and writing assignments are required. One formal essay will be due on an established summer date; other assignments will be due on the first day of classes. Students will be required to take (and pay for) the Advanced Placement Examination in the spring.

ENGLISH 12 - GENERAL (2205)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.02

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grade 12.

Description: The General English 12 program consists of an expansion of grade 9, 10, and 11 general units: writing, listening, speaking, study skills, and vocabulary development. The literature focus has three areas of study: an acquaintance with Chaucer and Shakespeare, a study of a full length novel, and a study of multicultural literature. In addition, language arts skills are presented through real life applications such as form completions, job interviews, college applications, and legal papers. Summer reading is required.

ENGLISH 12 - COLLEGE (2304)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grade 12.

Description: This course focuses attention on the panorama of British literature from Anglo-Saxon times to the twentieth-century. In doing so, it touches upon the political and cultural aspects of British history and the effect of these developments on British culture. One quarter will concentrate on contemporary British literature. The course reviews grammar and usage, and it further refines the techniques involved in writing a scholarly essay. Summer reading is required.

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION (College Career Pathways) (2305)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: This course is open to Grade 12 students who are enrolled in the College Career Pathways program.

Description: Effective Communication is a course designed to enable students to understand, to practice, and to demonstrate the skills of effective communication. The British element includes a study of Chaucer, Shakespeare, and two twentieth century novels. A component of RHS's College Career Pathways program, the class is the equivalent of Manchester Community College's Communications 173. Students completing the course with a grade of 75% or higher will receive credit for MCC's COM 173 (Public Speaking). Summer reading is required.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LITERATURE & COMPOSITION

Grade 12 (2501)

Full Year

Credit 1.00

Weight 1.08

Prerequisites: Enrollment in this course is based on a recommended average of 90, proven excellence in writing, commitment above and beyond the extracurricular, teacher recommendations, and an orientation (conducted in late May/early June), or departmental recommendation.

Description: The Advanced Placement course in English is a program taught at the college freshman level for highly qualified and motivated seniors who will take the College Board's Advanced Placement Test in English Literature and Composition. The course includes intensive study of representative selections from several genres and periods of major Western literature. Impromptu and critical writings are combined with explications, summaries, precis, and individually researched presentations to study and practice the principles of effective writing. Summer reading and writing assignments are required. One essay will be due on an established mid-summer date; the other writing assignments are due on the first day of class. Students will be required to take (and pay for) the Advanced Placement Examination in the spring.

ENGLISH / READING DEPARTMENT ELECTIVES

For those students who want to extend their study, additional English/Reading course elective credits may be earned.

YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE (2319)

One Semester

Credit: 0.50

Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grades 10, 11, and 12.

Description: This one-semester course is devoted to the study of Young Adult literature with an emphasis on current trends and marketing in literature today. All of the reading for this course will be interest-based and selected from award-winning, best-selling, and quick pick lists.

JOURNALISM I (2313)

One Semester

Credit 0.50

Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grades 10, 11, and 12.

Description: This course provides insights into the phenomenon of mass communication and its effects on human beings; gives students a chance to develop the basic skills needed to gather news and write specialized stories and articles; and focuses on the many other skills needed to produce and finance a school newspaper. Students learn to use a computer to compose articles and gather information on-line. They also become proficient in gathering facts through interviews and telephone use. Current events are also emphasized, especially in regards to developing story ideas for the school newspaper. Students must attend some meetings before and after school to produce and sell the school newspaper, the *RHS Rampage*. This course may be taken in either semester.

JOURNALISM II (2314)

Spring Semester

Credit 0.50

Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grades 10, 11, and 12. Prior successful completion of Journalism I is required.

Description: This course, a continuation of Journalism I, provides insights into the phenomenon of mass communication and its effects on human beings; gives students a chance to develop the basic skills needed to gather news and write specialized stories and articles; and focuses on the many other skills needed to produce and finance a school newspaper. Students learn to use a computer to compose articles and gather information on-line. They also become proficient in gathering facts through interviews and telephone use and explore careers in journalism. Current events continue to be emphasized, and a study of the First and Fifth Amendments to the United States Constitution will be included, along with an examination of journalism ethics. Students must attend some meetings before and after school to produce and sell the school newspaper, the *RHS Rampage*.

Note: Students may take Journalism I and Journalism II for one full credit. In addition, a student may take Journalism I in either semester.

CREATIVE WRITING I (2308)

Fall Semester

Credit 0.50

Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grades 10, 11, and 12.

Description: This one semester course is devoted to a study of short story writing, script writing, and poetry writing with emphasis on the study of professional authors' techniques and on student creations. The study of professional techniques encourages students to use critical analysis of their own work and to make revisions.

Note: This course can be used to fulfill the Fine Arts requirement for graduation.

CREATIVE WRITING II (2309)

Spring Semester

Credit 0.50

Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grades 10, 11, and 12. Prior successful completion of Creative Writing I is required.

Description: This one-semester course is an extension of fiction and poetry writing with the addition of nonfiction writing such as biography, autobiography, and the familiar essay. A unit on children's literature will also be included, and students will be creating their own samples. Students who elect to take the course for both semesters can extend and perfect their previous writing. Models by established writers will be examined for writing technique and style.

Note: This course can be used to fulfill the Fine Arts requirement for graduation.

ADVANCED CREATIVE WRITING (2318)

Full Year

Credit 1.00

Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grades 11 and 12. Prior successful completion of Creative Writing I and II is required.

Description: Advanced Creative Writing will provide the opportunity for committed students who have successfully completed Creative Writing I and II to write fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry within a workshop setting. This workshop will have an interest-based consensus curriculum. Students will be encouraged through writing and discussion to question, to refine, and to expand their craft. During this course students will learn precise guidelines on how to write well and how to contact publishers for possible publication. This course will also provide focused critique and meaningful dialogue. In addition, there will be an authentic audience participation requirement. The major focus of this class will be the analysis of student writing in the classroom as well as frequent individual conferences.

SPEECH (2312)

One Semester

Credit 0.50

Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grades 10, 11, and 12.

Description: The purpose of the course is to help students gain confidence and learn to develop and present all types of speeches for all occasions. The following major topics will be considered: seven basic problems of speech making, types of speeches and speech situations, Parliamentary procedure, debate, speech in the media. While this course is open to both college preparatory and better skilled general English students, it is generally accepted as college preparatory work.

MODERN THEATER I (2310)

Fall Semester

Credit 0.50

Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grades 11 and 12.

Description: The Modern Theater course is designed to give the student knowledge and practical application of all facets of technical theatrical production. Classwork includes creative design projects as well as "hands-on" practical application, including history of theater, costuming, scenic design, lighting, and set construction. While projects require some artistic ability, these projects may be done without any special skills. While this course is open to both college preparatory and motivated general English students, it is generally accepted as college preparatory work.

Note: This course can be used to fulfill the Fine Arts requirement for graduation.

MODERN THEATER II (2311)

Spring Semester

Credit 0.50

Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grades 11 and 12. Prior successful completion of Modern Theater I is required.

Description: Modern Theater II is an extension of Modern Theater I with an expanded in-depth emphasis on the performance aspect of theater. Instruction will focus on the fundamentals of acting, characterization, analysis, physical theater, period acting, reader's theater, development of the performing craft, stage combat, theater sports, improvisation, and scene acting. Since a knowledge of technical theater and theater interpretation are necessary, Modern Theater I is a prerequisite for Modern Theater II.

Note: This course can be used to fulfill the Fine Arts requirement for graduation.

ADVANCED ACTING (2405)

One Semester

Credit 0.50

Weight 1.06

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grade 12. Prior successful completion of Modern Theater II is required.

Description: Advanced Acting is a performance-based course that depends on the acting skills developed in Modern Theater II. Students will rehearse and perform material that either is student developed or obtained from published scripts. Emphasis will be placed on ensemble work, character development, script interpretation and analysis, and advanced movement.

Note: This course can be used to fulfill the Fine Arts requirement for graduation.

READING TECHNIQUES Grades 9/10 (2206) / Grades 11/12 (2207)

One Semester

Credit 0.50

Weight 1.02

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12.

Description: This course is designed to help students address deficiencies in their reading rate, comprehension, and study skills. General skills such as vocabulary building, note taking, outlining, reporting, and library skills will be stressed. The use of individualized reading exercises and workbooks will enable students to increase their reading rate and comprehension.

ADVANCED READING TECHNIQUES Grades 9/10 (2306) / Grades 11/12 (2307)

One Semester

Credit 0.50

Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12.

Description: This is a semester elective emphasizing skill development in speed reading, comprehension, vocabulary development, and study skills techniques. Incorporated into this course will be: test taking strategies for the verbal section of the SAT; effective use of textbooks; SQ3R method; note taking; outlining; summarizing; reference skills, interpreting maps, tables and graphs; test taking strategies, and computer-based reading improvement programs. These skills will enable a student to be better equipped to meet efficiently and effectively his or her post-secondary goals.

A PERSPECTIVE OF AMERICAN FILM I (2316)

One Semester Credit 0.50 Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grades 11 and 12.

Description: An extension of the Fine Arts curriculum, this course offers students an opportunity to view and critique films that have shaped cinematic history. Students in this course will study films produced from 1910 to 1960. Students will learn how films affected popular culture and vice-versa. This course will afford students the opportunity to discuss, analyze, and write about films.

Note: This course can be used to fulfill the Fine Arts requirement for graduation.

A PERSPECTIVE OF AMERICAN FILM II (2317)

One Semester Credit 0.50 Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grades 11 and 12. Prior successful completion of A Perspective of American Film I is required.

Description: An extension of the Fine Arts curriculum, this course offers students an opportunity to view and critique films that have shaped cinematic history. Students in this course will study films produced from 1960 to 2000. Students will learn how films affected popular culture and vice-versa. This course will afford students the opportunity to discuss, analyze, and write about films.

Note: This course can be used to fulfill the Fine Arts requirement for graduation.