

# **ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS**

**Objective:** *Students will learn to be effective communicators through a variety of experiences in speaking, writing, reading, and listening.*

**Graduation requirement:** *4 years/8 (one semester) credits in English. One of these credits needs to be in Public Speaking. One of these credits can be an English Elective.*

**Placement:** *Students will be placed in English courses based upon teacher recommendation, course grades, and test scores (ITBS/ITED, ELDA, and Asset/Compass). English teachers and school counselors will assist students in selecting courses best suited to their interests, aptitudes, and future plans.*

## **English as a Second Language (ESL) \*I, \*II, III, IV - Grades 9-10-11-12**

*Prerequisite: Instructor Recommendation and Test Scores*

This course is designed for any student whose native language is not English. Its purpose is to have non-English or limited English speaking students (LEP) acquire skills needed in English so they can function effectively. Vocabulary, survival skills, listening skills, reading skills, writing skills, and areas of American cultural patterns are studied.

Emphasis is placed on pronunciation, communication, and the structure of English. The student will progress at his or her individual rate. All students will be required to take entrance and exit oral proficiency examinations, as well as reading and writing assessments in English. From this series of courses, students could either transition into AAA English classes or English I based on test scores and/or teacher recommendation. \*Students receive English Credit for ESL III and IV but not for ESL I and II.

## **Language Arts I for ELL (previously called AAA English III and IV)**

## **Language Arts II for ELL (previously called AAA English V)**

*Prerequisite: Instructor Recommendation and Test Scores*

These courses are designed to help non-native English speakers develop higher order comprehension skills such as distinguishing fact and opinion and persuasion techniques. They emphasize strategies to improve reading and writing. They also build vocabulary. There are three parts to the courses: Reading, Writing, and Grammar. The grammar part will apply structures through development of relevant topics and themes that will expand background knowledge and expression. Students could transition into English I, II, or III from either of these courses based on test scores and instructor recommendation.

## **English I**

*Full Year*

English I is a survey course covering a variety of literary works, analyzing the content for theme, inference, symbolism and other literary devices. Vocabulary building is also a component of all reading. Writing is integrated into all units, including the research process and a research paper.

## **English II**

*Full Year*

*Prerequisite: English I*

English II is a course that emphasizes writing and literature. Writing units cover sentence structure, the 5-paragraph essay, and the career research paper. The novel, short story, drama, and poetry will be the focus of literature units. Appreciating literary forms, strengthening reading and analyzing skills, and exploring careers should be among the benefits to students.

## **American Heritage - Grade 11**

*Combination US History/English III/ Two-period block/ Full Year*

*Prerequisite: English II and Teacher Recommendation*

American Heritage is a course that combines the study of the history and literature of America and traces its development from 1600 to the present. This course satisfies the junior requirements of English III and American History and is taught in a two-period block of time. While the curriculum is consistent with these two classes, the design of American Heritage is focused on how the historical, social, cultural, and philosophical aspects of American life are reflected in its literature.

The course includes project-oriented assignments stressing research, composition skills, critical thinking, literary analysis, and the cognizance that the events of men/women are reflected in their arts. Special focus, at times, then, is directed to art, music, dance, and other study not usually found in the traditional approach to teaching English and history separately.

**OR**

## **English III**

*Full Year*

*Prerequisite: English II*

English III consists of American literature and beginning composition. The course includes reading and discussing the works of American literature from 1600 to the present. The approach to the study of this literature includes the major philosophies of the times, historical context and the social and cultural affects on writers. Students are encouraged to think critically and analyze works based on their own lives and connections to the literature. Writing and vocabulary are also strong components of this course.

## **Public Speaking- Grade 10**

*Semester Requirement*

*Prerequisite: English I OR Instructor Approval*

This required semester course is designed specifically for the purpose of gaining self-confidence and poise in speaking situations. Required performances range from conversational speaking and parliamentary procedure to speeches to demonstrate, inform and persuade. Assessments are based on test scores, speech writing, implementation of research, and presentations. The goal of the course is for each student to have the opportunity to increase his/her effectiveness and confidence as a public speaker.

# **English Electives**

## **Journalism - Grades 10-11-12**

*Full Year Elective*

*Prerequisites: Keyboarding I/"C" average or above in English courses*

First semester provides the necessary background to the basics of good journalistic writing. Students will be required to practice interview skills outside of class and publish one in-house newspaper page, showing proficiency in the use of the Macintosh computer for desktop publishing. Second semester is designed for students who wish to work on the student newspaper, explore a career in journalism or desktop publishing, improve and expand writing skills, or experience digital photography and practice layout and design. The class is responsible for content, typesetting, graphics, photography, layout, and design of the Hi-Breeze. Students who possess the ability and time to work after school hours to meet deadlines and an interest in writing or photography should enroll.

## **Elements of Writing - Grades 11-12**

*Semester Elective Prerequisite: Asset score of less than 40 on Writing*

This course provides opportunities for the improvement of verbal expression and written composition, including a review of grammar with emphasis on sentence structure. Comprehension skills are developed through reading and analysis of short articles.

## **Basic Reading - Grades 11-12**

*Semester Elective Prerequisite: Asset score of less than 40 on Reading*

Basic reading is a class for juniors and seniors who struggle with reading comprehension. Vocabulary instruction, as well as consciously learning and applying reading comprehension strategies, will allow students to understand more of what they read, which will, in turn, lead to reading more quickly.

### **Composition I - Grades 11-12**

*Semester Elective Prerequisite: ASSET score of 40 or higher in Writing  
Dual Credit through ICCC, Composition I [ENG 105]*

This course focuses on the process of writing expressive and informative prose. It introduces research skills and critical thinking skills.

### **Composition II - Grades 11-12**

*Semester Elective Prerequisite: Composition I/ ASSET score of 40 or higher Dual  
Credit through ICCC, Composition II [ENG 106]*

This course is a continuation of Composition I with advanced work in research techniques. The major focus is on persuasive and argumentative writing with an emphasis on critical thinking skills.

### **Fundamentals of Oral Communication – Grades 11-12**

*Semester Elective*

*Prerequisite: Public Speaking/Composition I/ ASSET score of 40 or higher  
Dual credit through ICCC (3 hours college credit upon completion) [SPC 101]*

This course is designed to enhance oral communication skills by. Emphasis is placed on the use of technology and the preparation and delivery of individual and group presentations in various speaking situations.

### **Oral Interpretation – Grades 11-12**

*Semester Elective Offered 1<sup>st</sup> Semester Only*

*Prerequisite: ASSET score of 40 or higher*

*Dual credit through ICCC (3 hours college credit upon completion) [SPC 140]*

This course provides experience in the oral presentation of three major literary genres – prose, poetry, and drama – for the purpose of making such forms come alive for the listening audience. The class begins with group exercises that culminate in a performance of Children's Literature.

### **Introduction to Literature – Grades 11-12**

*Semester Elective*

*Prerequisite: ASSET score of 40 or higher in Reading*

*Dual Credit through ICCC (3 hours college credit upon completion) [LIT-101]*

This course includes training in understanding the forms of imaginative literature: short story, drama, poetry, and the novel. Attention is given to personal and social values as they appear in selected readings.

## **Creative Writing – Grades 11-12**

*Semester Elective*

This course is a class for students who enjoy expressing themselves through writing. Students will experiment with both fiction and nonfiction in this semester-long class.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Reading – Grades 9-12**

*Full Year Elective*

*Prerequisite: Guidance Recommendation based on Test Scores*

This is a course for students who have scored below the proficiency level of 40% on the ITBS and/or ITED. It focuses on comprehension skills but also targets vocabulary development and fluency in both fiction and nonfiction textual materials.