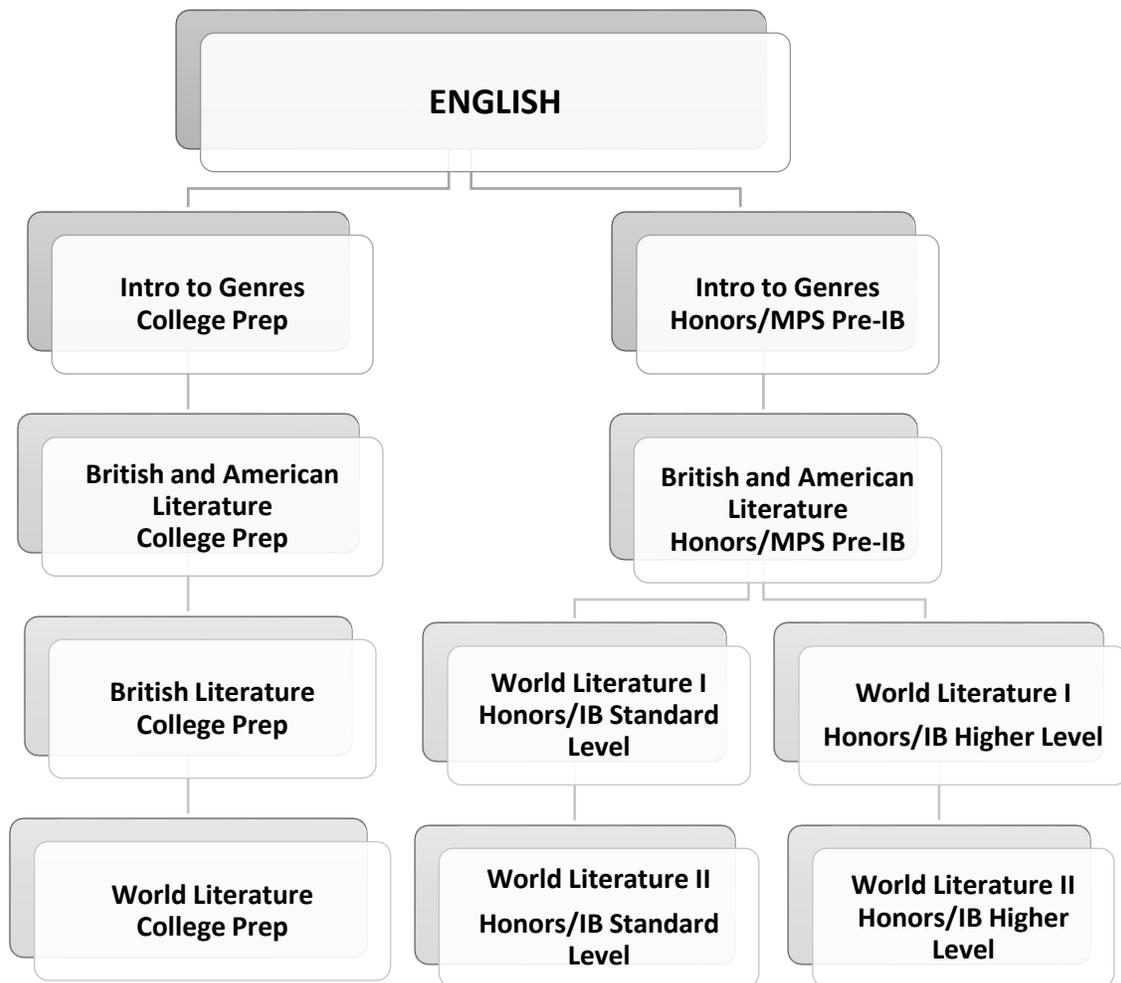


ENGLISH

The English curriculum provides a comprehensive program of studies in the areas of literature, critical thinking, composition, vocabulary, grammar, oratory, and study skills. Students will become proficient in expressing themselves through a wide variety of expository and creative writing assignments and speech activities. Students will begin the study of literature with a genre format as freshmen and continue their sophomore and junior years of study using a chronological approach to American then British literature, concluding their senior studies with an overview of world literature. The department strives to encompass the study of language and literature for both creative and functional purposes.

We provide our students with the literary skills not only to judge and evaluate what they have read and heard but also to help them broaden and deepen their personal experiences of the written word. Our students approach great literature with a confident knowledge that it is relevant, is capable of expanding their world views, and promotes critical thinking, which can only lead to intelligent dialogue as our students develop a global perspective. This, in turn, helps the students develop attitudes of tolerance, empathy and genuine respect for stories different from their own.

Each student will take a freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior yearlong English course. We encourage students to take additional electives for educational and personal fulfillment. The English curriculum choices provide excellent background, not only for college, but for enjoyment and a lifelong interest in literature.



Please note: There is mobility among College Prep, Honors, Standard Level IB, and Higher Level IB based on teacher and/or department recommendations.

Required Term Course: Research, Speech and Digital Literacy
Term Electives: Creative Writing, Advanced Creative Writing, Everything Harry Potter, Mythology, The Twilight Zone

INTRO TO GENRES - COLLEGE PREP

#1021 Freshman 1.00 credit Yearlong

In this foundational course, students are introduced to literary terminology through a study of several genres of world literature: the short story, the novel, drama, non-fiction, and poetry. Students will practice fundamental organizational, study, and test-taking skills and will review English grammar and sentence structure. To develop abilities in academic writing, students will practice composing expository, descriptive, and narrative thesis-driven essays. Students will accumulate vocabulary through a study of roots and will practice expressive oral reading, discussion, and speech techniques.

INTRO TO GENRES – HONORS/MPS PRE-IB

#1022 Freshman 1.00 credit Yearlong

This accelerated course of study is the foundation for the high school English program. Knowledge of literary terminology will enable students to analyze various genres of world literature: novel, short story, poetry, drama, and non-fiction. Additionally, students will have the opportunity for practice in areas such as note-taking, test-taking, outlining, and academic writing. In preparation for academic writing, the student will become proficient in writing expository, narrative and descriptive thesis-driven essays while oral language activities will encompass general speech techniques, discussion, and dramatic reading. The student will consistently study vocabulary and its roots to enhance written and oral expression.

RESEARCH, SPEECH, AND DIGITAL LITERACY – COLLEGE PREP

#1105 Freshman (required) .33 credit Term course

This multifaceted course will give freshmen a foundation in basic public speaking skills, research and writing, as well as an awareness of digital media and library resources in an increasingly digital age. The public speaking portion will address the student's ability to communicate in interpersonal situations, small groups, and with mass audiences. Not only will students examine the mechanics and development of communication and public speaking, but they will also address the anxiety that may accompany speaking in front of people by practicing ways to alleviate stress in those situations. The research writing portion of the class will allow students to engage in each stage of the research process, ending with the completion of a research paper. Students will practice MLA writing style and gain comfort with using parenthetical citations, formatting their papers in MLA style, and writing a works cited page. They will also explore the use of MPS's databases and learn to identify credible sources. Prewriting, drafting, proofreading and editing skills will be emphasized. A brief unit on digital literacy will be introduced and practiced, and students will be exposed to the standards for the 21st century learner in terms of digital citizenship, ethics, and information literacy.

BRITISH AND AMERICAN LITERATURE – COLLEGE PREP

#1031 Sophomore 1.00 credit Yearlong

Through the study of British and American literature and literary history, students will continue this year to develop the skills needed for literary discussion, analysis, and comparison of British and American non-fiction, poetry, drama, short stories, and novels. A consistent focus on vocabulary and etymology will complement the literary study, and students will practice oral communication skills through cooperative activities. Students will be introduced to skills in accordance with standardized testing and will continue to develop mastery of the thesis-driven essay structure through practice of expository, narrative, and descriptive writing. Additionally, with an emphasis on the writing process, students will each develop a persuasive MLA-research essay.

BRITISH AND AMERICAN LITERATURE – HONORS/MPS PRE-IB

#1032 Sophomore 1.00 credit Yearlong

Through the study of British and American literature and literary history, this course prepares students for IB Standard or Higher Level study during eleventh and twelfth grades. While being introduced to some IB-style coursework such as Socratic seminars and close reading, students will continue this year to develop the skills needed for literary analysis, use of textual evidence, and comparison of British and American non-fiction, poetry, drama, short stories, and novels. A consistent focus on vocabulary and etymology will complement the literary study and begin to prepare the student for standardized testing. Additionally, students will master the structure of the thesis-driven essay and continue to practice expository, narrative, and descriptive writing. Students will also focus on the writing process and will each develop a persuasive, MLA-research essay.

BRITISH LITERATURE - COLLEGE PREP

#1005 Junior 1.00 credit Yearlong

This course traces the origins and development of British literature and the English language with a focus on the following literary periods: Anglo-Saxon, Medieval, Renaissance, Enlightenment, Romantic, Victorian, and Modern. Students will practice literary analysis as they analyze a multitude of works, including Shakespearean tragedy. In preparation for the SAT, students will continue to accumulate vocabulary and to develop thesis-driven essay structure and content. Students at this level will compose two research essays in MLA format and will create a variety of presentations that relate to the literature study.

WORLD LITERATURE I- HONORS/IB STANDARD LEVEL

#1034 Junior 1.00 credit Yearlong

This challenging Standard Level International Baccalaureate study in world literature follows the IB curriculum and requirements. Admission to the program requires two things: 1) Recommendations of both sophomore teachers and the SL-IB World Literature I teacher; 2) The student's determination to commit to this rigorous two-year program. Junior year study is focused on the oratory and writing skills students need to master to complete the internal IB assessments as they analyze a variety of poems, novels, a graphic novel, and a Shakespearean play. Students will have the opportunity to sit for the Standard Level IB exams at the end of the senior year study, but this is not mandatory.

WORLD LITERATURE I – HONORS/IB HIGHER LEVEL

#1036 Junior 1.00 credit Yearlong

This rigorous study of world literature begins the student's journey toward attaining a certificate for the Higher Level International Baccalaureate English A: Literature course of study. Available for students who plan to sit for all of the IB internal and external assessments through junior and senior years, admission to this program requires four things: 1) Recommendations of both sophomore teachers and the HL-IB World Literature I teacher; 2) The student's commitment to complete this challenging two-year program; 3) Commitment to take the IB exams at the end of senior year; 4) **A deposit on the IB exam fee upon registration for the course.** Junior year culminates in the student's completion of two IB-mandated internal assessments for which students will hone their analytical, oratorical, and writing skills as they deeply read multiple poems, novels, nonfiction, and a Shakespearean play.

WORLD LITERATURE - COLLEGE PREP

#1007 Senior 1.00 credit Yearlong

This world literature course is the last step in preparing students for college English. Students will master the thesis-driven essay structure as they practice literary analysis and accumulate vocabulary through the works they study. Although no research essay is required, students should expect to conduct research and report on a variety of topics that reflect the diversity of cultures represented in the literature in a way that will develop their communication and speech skills. Additionally, students will be expected to display proficiency in the area of technical and business writing.

WORLD LITERATURE II – HONORS/IB STANDARD LEVEL

#1038 Senior 1.00 credit Yearlong

This world literature course is year two of the Standard Level International Baccalaureate program. Focusing on different types of writing, this IB curriculum teaches students to master the elements of composition as they critically examine three novels and/or short story anthologies and two plays in translation. Additionally, students will continue to master oratory and class discussion skills as they analyze literature. While the skills honed during this class will prepare students for the IB external assessments, including the exams in May, students **are not required to earn a certificate in this course.**

WORLD LITERATURE II – HONORS/IB HIGHER LEVEL

#1040 Senior 1.00 credit Yearlong

Exclusively for those students who want to earn at least an IB certificate in English A: Literature, this highest level English course will prepare students for the IB external assessments, including the IB exams in May. Students will master composition as they practice commentary, argumentative, and comparative analysis of four novels and three plays in translation. Among the requirements for admission to this course are: 1) Successful completion of HL-IB British Literature; 2) **A commitment to participate in all the IB assessments.** In addition to deep analysis of world literature, students will hone their oratory and class discussion skills as they research unfamiliar cultures.

ENGLISH ELECTIVES

INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE WRITING - COLLEGE PREP

#1509 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

This course is designed to teach students the basics of writing creatively by focusing on those elements that make for vivid, effective writing in the genres of poetry, fiction, and non-fiction. Each class period, students will focus their efforts to produce short pieces of creative work as they fill their portfolios. Through the term, students will develop one or more of these works into a master piece representative of their efforts and talent. Additionally, students will work through the process to compose a full, 23-minute script for a situational comedy.

ADVANCED CREATIVE WRITING – COLLEGE PREP

#1537 Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

Intended for students who have already demonstrated proficiency in the introductory creative writing course, teacher approval for admission to this class is required. Individualized instruction will enable students to personalize the nature of the projects they will develop, so students who register should have an idea of what genre they want to study.

EVERYTHING HARRY POTTER – COLLEGE PREP

#1531 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

Prepare to explore (or revisit) the novels by J.K. Rowling that continue to affect generations of people around the world. In this term course, students will explore a vast array of topics connected with the Harry Potter series: pop culture mythology, censorship, ethics and morality, magic and magical theory, Quidditch, and so much more. Students should expect to read at least one of the novels as part of their coursework.

MYTHOLOGY-COLLEGE PREP

#1535 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

Explore stories about heroes, gods, and the universe from Norse, Greek, and Roman mythologies. Designed to support the study of literature in the core English classes, students should expect to engage in individual and collaborative projects that will familiarize them with the archetypes and allusions that are omnipresent in Western culture.

THE TWILIGHT ZONE - COLLEGE PREP

#1523 Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

Students will discuss the distinctive style of the 1960s American television show The Twilight Zone as they identify and analyze the irony and cultural context of multiple episodes. Additionally, students will use the style of the show to develop, write, and film their own mini-episodes.