

## **ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

### **ENGLISH 9 A HONORS - Writing and Language**

**131300**

This course puts writing at the forefront of classroom instruction, offering a workshop-style environment for students to explore and develop their voices as writers. Writing for different purposes, in multiple modes, and to varied audiences, students cultivate habits of mind that they will build on. These skills will prepare them to communicate effectively in college and their careers and allow them to express themselves thoughtfully and responsibly in the public forum. Students will complete three tasks each quarter: analysis, argument, and narrative.

### **ENGLISH 9 B HONORS - Literature and Language**

**131400**

This course offers students the opportunities to study texts closely from varying perspectives, honing their critical reading skills at the same time as they apply the writing strategies they developed during the first term. Through careful reading of both print and non-print texts, students search for understanding and learn to be comfortable with the diverse interpretations of experience that arise out of a wide variety of perspectives. Laying a foundation for the detailed analysis and thoughtful argumentation that will be expected of them throughout their high school careers, the course asks students to examine texts through multiple lenses and to consider both the internal and external forces with which a writer works. Students will complete three tasks each quarter: analysis, argument, and narrative.

### **ENGLISH 9 A/B, HONORS APEX**

This course focuses on the communication processes of critical reading and writing through the study of language and literature. While the course focuses on the same indicators from the MCPS High School Curriculum Framework as honors level classes, instruction and assessment are based on more challenging literature with higher demands placed on students in critical writing of the common tasks. In APEX 9A the focus is on the writing process: single paragraph, multi-paragraph and research paper writing. Many strategies from AP® English classes are introduced at the ninth grade level, especially analysis of rhetorical devices and critical timed writing, in order to prepare the APEX students for APEX grade 10 English and AP® Language and Composition in grade 11. The course is cross-curricular in nature, focusing on shared themes in APEX Biology and AP® United States Government and Politics several times a year. The document-based argument, an integral part of the AP® curriculums in English and social studies, is introduced second semester based on fictional, non-fictional and data-based sources. In addition, timed writing skills based on the literature are assessed.

*Prerequisite:* Acceptance into the APEX Scholars Program

**ENGLISH 10 A/B, HONORS****132300/132400**

This course focuses on specific genres to help students understand how authors' perceptions of the world drive them to convey their understanding of the human experience. The course includes four units: Stories of the Individual-Memoir and Coming-of-Age Stories; Stories in the Oral Tradition – Drama and Epic Poetry, Stories in the World – Historical and Political Literature; and Stories of Other Worlds – Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Imaginative Literature. Students compose in different modes for different purposes, with opportunities to practice composing in the genres they study. Students will complete three tasks each quarter: analysis, argument, and narrative.

*Prerequisite:* Attainment of outcomes of English 9

Grade Level: 10 -11-12

**ENGLISH 10 A/B, HONORS APEX****132333/132433**

Students already enrolled in the APEX Scholars Program continue their course of study building upon the foundations established in APEX English 9. An emphasis on writing continues, while the focus expands to include developing skills in oral communication. Several oral presentations, both individual and group-oriented, encourage students to develop their communication skills in front of an evaluative audience. A major speech, a eulogy based upon a biographical subject, brings these skills together in a formal assessment. A Shakespearean text is examined in detail culminating in an essay that examines social issues relevant to the text. Film and visual literacy is focused on through close analysis of film elements, and a unit on satire is begun, incorporating both written and visual texts. The satire unit that began in Semester 1 concludes in Semester 2 with a comparative essay that analyzes differences in tone and author intent. An intensive research component is introduced to encourage students to make thorough use of both electronic and hard-copy sources. Research is based on assessment of a controversial topic, which in turn is formalized in a persuasive speech, lasting from twelve to fourteen minutes, aimed at encouraging a critical audience to adapt the speaker's viewpoint. Communication skills are revisited and refined with particular attention to how these skills can be used persuasively. Multiple texts are examined to determine differences in leadership styles.

*Prerequisite:* Acceptance into the APEX Scholars Program

Grade Level: 10-11-12

**ENGLISH 11 A/B, HONORS - Inquiry into the American Experience****133300/133400**

Semester A includes five thematic units: Class in America, Education and Learning, Humor and Society, Race, Culture, and Identity and Stories of Place. Semester B includes five thematic units: Gender Roles and Expectations, Home and Family, The Human Psyche, Language and Communication, and Power, Oppression, and Conflict. Students read a variety of texts important to the fabric of our nation and develop an understanding of their responsibility as citizens to engage in educated and civil discourse about the issues

that confront contemporary society. Students will complete three tasks each quarter: analysis, argument, and narrative.

*Prerequisite:* Attainment of outcomes of English 10

Grade Level: 11-12

**ENGLISH 12 A/B, HONORS - Inquiry into the Global Experience**

**134300/134400**

This course encourages students to consider multiple and complex points of view on universal themes and global issues. Students continue to develop skills for using language to understand a world that is changing in terms of how information is produced and shared. Semester A includes five thematic units: Faith and Beliefs, Humor, Satire, and the Absurd, Navigating Colliding Cultures, Truth and Perception, and violence. Semester B includes five thematic units: Gender Roles Across Cultures, Good, Evil, and In Between, Happiness and Fulfillment, Resilience and Resignation, and Responsibility to self, others, and the world. Students will complete three tasks each quarter: analysis, argument, and narrative.

*Prerequisite:* Attainment of outcomes of English 11

Grade Level: 11-12

**AP® ENGLISH 11 - LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION A/B**

**101500/101600**

This course is designed for motivated students with a command of standard English and a lively interest in the power and versatility of language. Students read complex prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts and write for a range of purposes to express ideas with clarity and precision. Students are strongly encouraged to take the AP examination at the end of the course.

*Prerequisite:* Attainment of the outcomes of English 10

Grade Level: 11-12

**AP® ENGLISH 12 - LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION A/B**

**101700/101800**

This course is designed for motivated students with a command of standard English and an interest in reading challenging literature, both classical and contemporary and representative of dominant literary genres and themes. Students apply methods of literary analysis and write for a variety of purposes to increase their precision in expression. Students are strongly encouraged to take the AP examination at the end of the course.

*Prerequisite:* Attainment of outcomes of English 11

Grade Level: 12

## ENGLISH ELECTIVE COURSES

### **THEATER 1 A/B (An introductory course)**

**692600/692700**

In this course, students gain an understanding of the entire theater process through which human behavior is translated into a written drama, produced as a play, and presented to an audience. The study of theater aesthetics, history, and criticism is balanced with workshop training in acting and basic theater production skills.

Grade Level: 9 – 10 – 11 – 12

### **ADVANCED ACTING – 1<sup>st</sup> Semester**

**691200**

This course focuses on developing individual acting skills as well as ensemble dynamics. Students will participate in collaborative activities such as scene performances, Reader's Theater and one-act plays and individual performances such as monologues and poetry readings. In addition, students will have the opportunity to direct other actors. This is the first semester course. Students may continue the course in stage design during second semester.

*Prerequisite:* Theater 1 or permission of teacher

Grade Level: 10 -11-12

### **STAGE DESIGN – 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester**

**691300**

Stage production and the design and mounting of stage presentations, with emphasis on problems of technical production are studied. Students gain skills in both the design and construction aspects of technical theater sets, costumes, lighting, sound, and properties. Students compare design/production approaches of various designers/director and practice technical skills related to performance.

*Prerequisite:* Students will be registered by counselors on the recommendation of staff members and may not register for this course themselves.

Grade Level: 10 – 11 – 12

No repeats for credit

### **ADVANCED COMPOSITION A/B**

**113000/113500**

This course is designed for students interested in creative or expository writing. Students receive guided instruction in areas of their choice: creative writing with special emphasis on poetry, drama, or prose fiction; advanced expository writing; or a combination of writing types. Regular guidance and instruction take place mainly in small, common-interest groups, supplemented by frequent teacher-student conferences and critiques.

Grade Level: 9 -10-11-12

**JOURNALISM 1: NEWSPAPER****115000/115100****TECH ADV JOURNAL (Journalism 2 A; NEWSPAPER, "The Pitch")****115200****PUBS EDIT /BIZ (Journalism 2 B; NEWSPAPER, "The Pitch")****115300**

Journalism 1 and 2 are academic courses for all students interested in learning about journalism and for those students interested in working on school publications. Instruction will focus on techniques of gathering and reporting news; on skills of editing, copy reading, and proofreading; and on the techniques for designing newspaper pages. In the courses, students are provided instruction and practical experiences in recognizing what constitutes news value, in identifying and evaluating news sources, in preparing and conducting interviews and surveys, in writing various kinds of newspaper copy, and in designing different types of pages for school newspapers. There are two publications: print and online.

Grade Level: 9 – 10 – 11 – 12

Students must complete Journalism 1 to register for Journalism 2. Exceptions can be made for photographers, artists or current 11th grade AP Language and Composition students. Journalism 2 is considered an **Advanced Level Course**, equivalent to AP and Honors courses in that the quality point will be added to grades of A, B, or C to determine the weighted GPA. This course may be repeated for credit.

**JOURNALISM 2: LITERARY MAGAZINE, *Spectator*****117100/117200**

Students with literary, artistic, graphic and technical interests and talents who wish to work on Walter Johnson's award winning literary magazine, *Spectator*, are encouraged to enroll in this course. Students will learn and apply advanced publication methods to produce *Spectator*. Limited enrollment, please choose an alternate.

Recommendation: Journalism 1; basic computer skills; familiarity with basic photo and publishing software.

Grade Level: 10 -11-12

**JOURNALISM 1: YEARBOOK A/B****116700/116800**

Grade Level: 9 -10 -11-12

**JOURNALISM 2: YEARBOOK\*A/B****\*116900/117000**

The courses in Yearbook Journalism focus on techniques of gathering and reporting news, on skills of editing, copy reading, and proofreading, and on techniques of designing layouts. Students become acquainted with the realities of covering events, groups, and people; assigning and managing staff; dealing with a printing plant; and managing advertising and public relations. This is considered an **Advanced Level Course**, equivalent to AP® and Honors courses, in that a quality point will be added to grades of A, B, or C to determine the weighted GPA.

Grade Level: 10 -11-12

\*The process of compiling all the components to publish a high school yearbook.

Journalism 1: Yearbook A/B

No repeats for credit

**MODERN MYTH & CULTURE****106400**

This course introduces students to the mythological stories of Ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Rome, Europe, and the Americas. Students will explore the similarities and the differences among creation myths, gods, and goddesses, the afterlife, and heroes. Students will use novels, plays, short stories, films, and poems as texts to analyze the purpose of mythology and the impact of mythology on art, literature, and culture. All students will have the opportunity to incorporate art, film, research, creative writing into assignments. As a culminating assignment, students will write their own modern myth.

Grade Level: 10 – 11 – 12

**MUSIC THEATER A/B****690400/690500**

Students study a variety of music styles, performance techniques, and design for musical theater; the history and development of musical theater; and the collaborative efforts of designers, directors, choreographers, and composers that make it work.

Grade Level: 10 – 11 – 12

Earns Fine Art credit

**PLAY DIRECTING****691400**

Students focus on the skills required in Theatre directing. Study centers on the director as interpretative and creative artist, selecting, and casting the play, coordinating design functions, blocking the play, developing characterization, and rehearsing the play and developing an ensemble effect in performance. Through the study of various theories, students direct both traditional and experimental theatre forms as culminating productions. This course may be repeated for credit.

Prerequisite: Theatre 1 and 2

Grade Level: 11 – 12

No repeats for credit

**LITERATURE AS FILM****690600**

Many movies originally started out as novels, plays, or short stories. This course examines the original texts and choices made by writers and directors in the adaptation process. Students gain the skills necessary to critically read and analyze texts and films to evaluate storyboards, critiques, and short films. Genres covered include drama, mystery and film noir, western, comedy, gangster, and horror/thriller.

Grade Level: 10 -11-12

No repeats for credit