

LANGUAGE AND FINE/PERFORMING ARTS
(2-18-10)

MIDDLE SCHOOL ENGLISH

English 6

Course Description: The major areas of study in sixth grade grammar focus on extending language skills. Language instruction stresses application of the parts of speech and the usage of different kinds of sentences and sentence structure. This is achieved through the use of the "Shurley Method", employing repetition and jingles to reinforce learning. Through means of creative writing and a variety of other writing activities, writing instruction emphasizes a continuation of proper techniques and form and creativity. Spelling emphasis is on a basic word list taken from the spelling workbook and is incorporated into the reading and language areas by means of worksheets and tests. Library and research skills are emphasized through the usage of these skills in various activities and projects.

Grade Level: This course is taken by all 6th graders.

English Literature 6

Course Description: The major areas of study in sixth grade literature emphasize vocabulary development, comprehension skills, as well as writing and thinking skills. Reading is emphasized through assigned literature selections and books chosen or assigned from a reading list. Reading consists of outside materials assigned by the teacher, as well as reading from the assigned literature text.

Grade Level: This course is taken by all 6th graders.

English 7

Course Description: The major goals and objectives in the seventh grade English curriculum emphasize the fundamentals of grammar, especially mastery of the eight parts of speech, and spelling. Attention is given to the different kinds of sentences and sentence structure leading to the composition of solid paragraphs within a five or six paragraph essay. Spelling and vocabulary enrichment are fostered through assessment of spelling skills and vocabulary comprehension.

Grade Level: This course is taken by all 7th graders.

English Literature 7

Course Description: Reading is emphasized through assigned literature selections and books chosen or assigned from a reading list. Reading consists of outside materials assigned by the teacher, as well as reading from the assigned literature text. The major goals of literature in the seventh grade curriculum are to increase students' reading comprehension; to stimulate interest in reading; to expose students to a variety of authors and their works; to demonstrate how historical, moral and social backgrounds are manifested in literary works; and to enrich students' understanding and enjoyment of novels through reports, essays, movies, and projects.

Grade Level: This course is taken by all 7th graders.

7th Grade Common Period

Course Description: 7th Grade Common Period is a six week rotation of Art, Keyboarding, Chorus/Theatre.

Grade Level: This course is taken by all 7th graders.

English 8

Course Description: The major goals and objectives for the eighth grade English curriculum emphasize the mastery of grammatical and usage skills, along with a keener awareness and application of these skills in composition. Increased emphasis is put on vocabulary and spelling skills while students are encouraged to adopt more descriptive and vivid words for their own speaking and writing. Composition extends from building sentences to constructing paragraphs. Reading consists of materials assigned by the teacher, as well as reading from the assigned literature text.

Grade Level: This course is taken by all 8th graders.

English Literary Enrichment 8

Course Description: The major goals of Literary Enrichment in the eighth grade curriculum are to increase students' reading comprehension, to stimulate interest in reading, to expose students to a variety of authors and their works, to demonstrate how historical, moral and social backgrounds are manifested in literary works, and to enrich students' understanding and enjoyment of novels through reports, essays, movies, and projects.

Grade Level: This course is taken by all 8th graders.

HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH

English 9

Course Description: One semester of grammar and one semester of literature are required as the basis of this course. Students review the basics of grammatical structure and exhibit mastery of such through writing assignments. Students recognize literary concepts, devices, and authors. Mastery is exhibited through testing, writing assignments, and oral interpretation. Students are given several opportunities to practice

basic speaking skills. An annotated bibliography is a required research-writing assignment in the fall. A term paper is a required research-writing assignment in the spring. ACT preparatory vocabulary and spelling instruction are included weekly to increase vocabulary by at least 500 words. Students will be tested throughout the year on required reading assignments (novels). Students are also required to write resume's, which are filed in the counselor's office for reference.

Grade Level: This course is taken by all 9th graders.

English 10

Course Description: One semester of grammar and one semester of literature and debate are the basis of this course. Students review the basics of grammar and exhibit mastery through writing. A term paper is a required assignment. Students are taught to recognize literary concepts, devices, and authors. Mastery is exhibited through discussion, testing, writing assignments, and oral interpretation. The debate unit is designed to teach students research skills as well as speaking skills. ACT preparatory vocabulary and spelling instruction are included weekly to increase vocabulary by at least 500 words. Students will be tested throughout the year on required reading assignments (novels). Students are also required to write resume's which are filed in the counselor's office for reference.

Grade Level: This course will be taken by all 10th graders (except for those enrolled in English 10 Honors).

English 10 - Honors

Course Description: Students will review the basics of grammar only as needed and exhibit mastery through writing. This will be integrated into a study of European Literature. Writing assignments will be completed as practice for the AP European History exam. Two term papers are required, one each semester. Students are taught to

recognize literary concepts, devices, and authors. Mastery is exhibited through discussion, testing, writing assignments, and oral interpretation. The debate unit is designed to teach students research skills as well as speaking skills. Students will be tested throughout the year on required reading assignments (novels). Students are also required to write resume's which are filed in the counselor's office for reference.

Grade Level:

This course must be taken by those students enrolled in AP European History as tenth graders. Students must have made an "A" in 9th grade English and/or receive approval from the chairperson of the English Department.

English 11

Course Description:

This course is a study of American literature. It includes units on the writing process and on writing an extended research paper. Grammar is studied as needed to aid the writing process. Extensive study of American novels is also included. The course of study involves discussion on the historical background of the recognized time period in American literature. It also includes exposure to the significant authors and their backgrounds as well as the significant works of the era. The writing process is involved in the assignments based on the reading. Students will be tested throughout the year on required reading assignments (novels). Students are also required to write resume's which are filed in the counselor's office for reference.

Grade Level:

This course will be taken by all 11th graders.

English 12

Course Description:

This course is a study of British literature. It includes units on the writing process and on writing an extended research paper. Grammar is studied as needed to aid the writing process. Extensive study of British novels is also included. This includes a

discussion of the historical background of the recognized literary time periods in British literature as well as exposure to significant authors and their works. (A formal research paper is required before the end of the first nine weeks of the school year.) Students will be tested throughout the year on required reading assignments (novels). Students are also required to write resumes which are filed in the counselor's office for reference.

Grade Level:

This course will be taken by 12th graders not enrolled in AP English.

**Advanced Placement English
(Literature and Composition)**

Course Description:

In addition to the regular British literature curriculum, students will prepare and study throughout this course to take the Advanced Placement Exam in Literature and Composition. This will include random testing using sample practice segments of former and possibly current multiple choice portions of the Advanced Placement exam; timed writing practices are also utilized as a vital part of the preparation for the exam. The course involves an advanced study of the different techniques and styles of writing essays. Students will be expected to complete a significant amount of outside reading of teacher-selected and student-selected, teacher-approved novels throughout the summer preceding the course and during the school year. All students who complete this course will be required to take the Advanced Placement exam.

Grade Level:

This course is for approved 12th graders who desire a more intensive study of British Literature and Composition along with additional literary works selected from the AP list.

SPANISH

Spanish I

Course Description: This is an elective course in which students are taught to understand the Spanish language through listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Mastery is demonstrated through the use of dictation, translation, listening, oral, and verbal activities. A secondary goal is the development of an understanding and appreciation of Hispanic culture.

Grade Level: This course is offered to students in grades 9 through 12.

Spanish II

Course Description: This is an elective course for which Spanish I is a prerequisite. Students are taught the Spanish language at a more advanced level, which includes learning several verb tenses as well as many grammatical concepts. Listening and speaking skills are especially reinforced. Mastery is demonstrated through listening, speaking, reading and writing activities. A study of Hispanic culture is re-emphasized.

Grade Level: This course is offered to students in grades 10-12.

YEARBOOK

Course Description: Yearbook is a year-long class that produces the Montala. Students focus on journalistic writing, photography and selling ads. Students must have submitted an application to the Yearbook Sponsor by the announced date and received an acceptance letter in order to sign up for this class.

Grade Level: This course is offered to students in grades 9-12.

PERFORMING ARTS

BAND

Course Description: The instrumental music program for grades 6-12 is an elective program for students who show talent, aptitude, and interest as well as for those students with limited instrumental backgrounds. Instrumental music instruction at this level is based on the performing organization of the band, ensembles, and solo performances. The key to the program is participation; the emphasis is on experiencing music through performance.

The instrumental program includes opportunities for beginning, intermediate, and advanced band instruction; marching band; symphonic band; jazz band; ensembles of many varieties; and solo instrumentals. Music-related groups, such as color guard, and auxiliary percussion, may also be organized for students with limited instrumental backgrounds.

Grade Level: Participation in band is on an elective basis and open to students in grades 6 through 12.

THEATRE I

Course Description: This is a year-long course designed to teach students the mechanics of theatre. This class seeks to develop a greater appreciation for theatre as both a medium of cultural expression and a technical production. The process of communication (including speech writing and presentation) is the focus of the first semester of instruction for this course. Second semester experiences include: the mechanics of theatre, the

history of theatre, basic acting strategies and stage movement, script reading, elemental stagecraft, improvisation, and character and plot analysis. Extra-curricular activities are a course requirement. These may include working with the school's Montala Pageant and the Spring Musical.

Grade Level:

This is an elective course for students in grades 9 through 12.

ADVANCED THEATRE (II, III, IV)

Course Description:

This is a year long course designed with a performance based curriculum. Curriculum includes a study of theatre history, musical theatre, playwriting, production, the International Phonetic Alphabet, acting styles, auditioning, and evaluations and critiques. PREREQUISITE – Theatre I/Director approval.

Grade Level:

This is an elective course for students in grades 10 through 12.

CHORUS

Admission to this course is by audition only.

Course Description:

In this course students will learn musical notation, vocal technique, harmony, and showmanship. Participation in chorus performances is a course requirement. Auditions and the approval of the choral director are also required for admission to this course.

Grade Level:

This is an elective course for students in grades 9 through 12 who have been accepted by audition.

FINE ARTS

High School Music Theory

Course Description:

Music Theory is a two-semester course designed to increase students understanding of the mechanics,

form, and function of music. During the course, students will study the basic mechanical elements of music, basic harmony, structural form, compositional techniques, and basic ear training and sight singing. This course is intended to prepare students for college Music Theory courses and is strongly encouraged for students interested in pursuing any Music or Music Education degree.

Prerequisites:

This course is available only to 11th and 12th grade students and requires at least 2 years experience in a performing musical ensemble (chorus or band).

Art I

Course Description:

Art I is designed for the beginner art student. This class lays the foundation for further learning beginning with the study of the elements of art, art media, art criticism, art history, and aesthetics. These concepts are applied to the basics of art production in drawing, painting, printmaking, and three-dimensional design.

Grade Level:

This course is offered as an elective to students in grades 9 through 12.

Advanced Art II, III, and IV

Course Description:

Advanced Art is designed to allow students to explore their own styles, develop creativity, and improve skills through both assigned and independent work. The class also introduces mature art students to media such as oil painting and photography. At the end of the year, Advanced Art students create individual displays of their work for the school's art show. Advanced Art course offerings enable students to follow areas of personal interest by producing in-depth artwork of exceptional quality.

Grade Levels:

These courses are offered to students in grades 10-12.