

River Ridge High School

Language Arts Course Offerings



English I

(9th grade requirement)

The purpose of this course is to provide English I students opportunities to engage in learning using texts of appropriate complexity, integrating language arts study in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language for college and career preparation and readiness.

Texts we'll use include the novel *The Lord of the Flies*, Homer's *Odyssey*, *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet*, short stories, informational texts, and poetry.

The following instructional practices will aid student learning:

1. Reading assignments from longer text passages, as well as shorter ones when text is extremely complex.
2. Making close reading and rereading of texts central to lessons.
3. Asking high-level, text-specific questions and requiring high-level, complex tasks and assignments.
4. Requiring students to support answers with evidence from the text.
5. Providing extensive text-based research and writing opportunities (claims and evidence).

English II

(10th grade requirement)

prerequisite: English I

This year, you will participate in a variety of assignments, as well as, some project-based activities to help you prepare for the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA), the PSAT/SAT, AP courses, and college. Each semester, we will focus on World Literature by exploring important time periods in history through the study of literature written about them. We will discuss universal themes associated with the political, social, and moral issues of these time periods, as well as their relevance today.

The following units covered this year may include, but are not limited to, the following:

Macbeth, *Night*, *The Book Thief*, *In Cold Blood*, *Alas, Babylon*, *Fahrenheit 451*, poetry, writing skills, reading analysis, and selected short fiction and non-fiction stories from various genres.

English III

(11th grade requirement)

prerequisite: English II

In this course you will see an emphasis on critical thinking skills in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. You will read both literary and informational texts, focusing on developing strong reasoning and analytical skills.

You will examine the elements of effective written communication, including argument, in order to become stronger readers, writers, thinkers, and speakers. You will also write compositions based on research, and you will communicate responses to your readings in essays, projects, and oral presentations.

Focus is American Literature, including but not limited to *The Crucible*, *The Great Gatsby*, Thoreau and various historical documents specific works that we cover.

English 3 Honors delves more deeply into the literary devices, themes and application.

English IV

(12th grade requirement)

prerequisite: English III

English IV FL College & Career Prep (CCP): This course is designed for seniors who have not yet passed the Reading/Writing FSA and need further preparation to enter the work force or community college. This course incorporates reading and writing through a variety of informative and fictional text using grade-level writing to develop critical reading and writing skills necessary for success in the work force and in community college courses. Content includes reading comprehension; fact and opinion, inferences and main ideas; recognizing purpose and tone of informational reading; vocabulary development; paragraph development; understanding and using language, grammar, and mechanics effectively; business writing such as resumes, cover letters, and application essays; MLA research and presentations.

English IV HONORS: This course is designed for seniors planning to attend a university or community college after high school. It is a language arts course with an in-depth emphasis on classic literary pieces, analytical and expository writing. Students will also be involved in a comprehensive unit on MLA research and technical writing skills. Concepts taught may include (but are not limited to) *Beowulf*, *Canterbury Tales*, *Othello*, *Hamlet*, grammar and usage, literary elements, drama/plays/oral reading, speeches/presentations, poetry, and vocabulary. Lesson focus is on reading and analysis of non-fiction and fiction selections in order to develop critical reading and writing skills necessary for success in college courses, including reading/writing of argument with bias and supporting details

"The more you read
the more things you know.
The more that you learn
the more places you'll go."
-Dr. Seuss