

COURSE SELECTION GUIDE: ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Courses to consider for ELA students moving from college-prep into an honors or AP course



WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS?

- For freshmen, sophomores, and juniors currently enrolled in the ELA college-prep course, you have the option to move up into the honors program next year or continue into the next college-prep class as described in the course catalog.
- For those currently enrolled in the honors program, you may continue into the next honors-level class as described in the course catalog.
- AP courses:
 - All sophomores and juniors, regardless of current placement, can take an AP course during their junior and senior year.
 - The suggested pathway for students is AP Language during the junior year and AP Literature during the senior year (as recommended by the College Board), although students may choose either one regardless of grade level.



THE COLLEGE-PREP COURSES

- **3002: English Language Arts 10**

- The sophomore English Language Arts curriculum reinforces and expands competencies initiated in freshman level English Language Arts. Students continue to grow as critical readers and thinkers while supporting the frameworks for MCAS strategies. Emphasis is placed on evaluating literary devices to enhance analytical skills and encourage complex understandings of texts. Students engage in a variety of writing activities and assignments that require attention to audience and purpose, as well as careful organization, use of evidence, and clear expression of ideas.

- **3003: English Language Arts 11**

- This course provides students with knowledge of American writers to gain a clearer sense of the diversity of our country. It also provides students with an awareness of cultural and historical influences on literature. American literature genres include myths, songs, folktales, poetry, sermon, primary sources, legend, fiction, nonfiction and historical narrative.

- **3004: English Language Arts 12**

- This course focuses on classic British literature from the Anglo-Saxon Period, the English Renaissance, the Restoration Period, the Romantic and Victorian Eras to contemporary times. The genres are epic poetry, romantic poetry, Victorian poetry, framework stories, sonnets, Shakespearian drama, novels, and fiction.



3202: HONORS ELA 10

- The sophomore Honors English Language Arts curriculum reinforces and expands competencies initiated in freshman level English Language Arts. Students read the various works of the sophomore English Language Arts curriculum and analyze the form and purpose of these genres. Novels may be assigned during the shop cycle interim, as well as during the academic cycle, which will be the basis for in-depth literary analysis to demonstrate considerations of audience, purpose, and information conveyed. Students will develop evidence-based arguments, engage in academic dialogue, consider different sources of information, and utilize basic research techniques.

** Prerequisites: Grade of 80 or above in Honors ELA 9 or*

Grade of 90 or above in ELA 9, teacher recommendation, and passing score on placement exam

*** Students wishing to take the writing placement exam for this honors course must see their English teacher(s) prior to February 3rd.*



3203: HONORS ELA 11

- Students read the various genres of the junior English Language Arts curriculum and analyze style, form, and historical content. Students develop an understanding of literature as a basis for social commentary, inquiry, and critical analysis. Students will be required to present informal and formal speech presentations. Novels will be assigned during the shop cycle interim, as well as during the academic cycle, which will be the basis for in depth literary analysis presentations to demonstrate considerations of audience, purpose, and information conveyed. Students improve organization, content, paragraph development, level of detail, style, tone, and word choice in their own writing through the writing process. SAT vocabulary and word analogies preparation are an integral part of this course.

** Prerequisites: Grade of 80 or above in Honors ELA 10 or*

Grade of 90 or above in ELA 10, teacher recommendation, and passing score on placement exam

*** Students wishing to take the writing placement exam for this honors course must see their English teacher(s) prior to February 3rd.*



3204: HONORS ELA 12

- This is a literature course that provides students with an opportunity to develop their writing through various stages of composing, revising, and editing, while simultaneously developing a critical view of the world surrounding them. While developing an understanding of literature as a basis for enjoyment, social commentary, inquiry, and critical analysis, students in this course also learn to formulate and support a thesis using a number of rhetorical strategies; conduct research; integrate a variety of sources according to the Modern Language Association guidelines; and write in standard, formal English with consideration given to audience, purpose, and context.

** Prerequisites: Grade of 80 or above in Honors ELA 11 or*

Grade of 90 or above in ELA 11, teacher recommendation, and passing score on placement exam

*** Students wishing to take the writing placement exam for this honors course must see their English teacher(s) prior to February 3rd.*



3144: AP LANGUAGE & COMPOSITION

- The AP English Language and Composition course focuses on the development and revision of evidence-based analytic and argumentative writing, the rhetorical analysis of nonfiction texts, and the decisions writers make as they compose and revise. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Additionally, they read and analyze rhetorical elements and their effects in nonfiction texts—including images as forms of text—from a range of disciplines and historical periods. All students enrolled in AP classes will sit for the National AP Exam in May.

**Weighted towards GPA*

*** Course goals and further descriptions can be found at collegeboard.org*

**** This course is an open-enrollment opportunity; no placement test is required*



3145: AP LITERATURE & COMPOSITION

- The AP English Literature and Composition course aligns to an introductory college-level literature and writing curriculum. The AP English Literature and Composition course focuses on reading, analyzing, and writing about imaginative literature (fiction, poetry, drama) from various periods. Students engage in close reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature to deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure. As they read, students consider a work's structure, style, and themes, as well as its use of figurative language, imagery, and symbolism. Writing assignments include expository, analytical, and argumentative essays that require students to analyze and interpret literary works. All students enrolled in AP classes will sit for the National AP Exam in May.

** Weighted towards GPA*

*** Course goals and further descriptions can be found at collegeboard.org*

**** This course is an open-enrollment opportunity; no placement test is required*



WHAT SHOULD I TAKE NEXT YEAR?

- You may continue on the course path you have already begun this year.
- Think about your goals after high school. Will you look at a 2-year or 4-year college? Will you go directly into the trade or work? This may impact what type of course path you choose.
- The AP courses are designed to be much more rigorous and challenging than honors. AP classes are designed to mimic a college course, so the pacing and workload will be much different than you are used to.



DECISION TIME!

- Talk to your current teacher about your plans for next year. They can help guide you in the right direction.
- Those wishing to move into an honors course from college-prep MUST sit a placement test in March to determine eligibility. If you do not take this test, you will not be recommended for honors.
- For those wishing to move into AP, there is no placement test, as the courses are open enrollment, however you should meet with the AP instructors after school, on their appointed days, to review the curriculum, what's expected of you, and whether it is the right fit for you.
- TALK with your parents or guardians. They play an important role in your education too! And do not be afraid to ask questions about any of the honors or AP work. The more informed you are ahead of time, the better choice you will make and the more likely you will be to succeed in whichever course you choose!

