

## **ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

### **ENGLISH 9A/B**

**131100/131200**

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

**131300/131400**

This course integrates the processes of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing with the study of the contents of language and literature. Students develop critical reasoning skills and strategies for close reading of texts from a variety of genres and time periods during two units aligned with ninth grade history courses. Students complete mandatory common tasks that focus primarily on the writing process but include development of other language skills.

English 9 is in the honors program. Students may take the course at the honors level by registering using the honors course code.

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

**131322/131422**

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 regular and 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<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup> Language and Composition in grade 11. The course is cross-curricular in nature, focusing on shared themes in APEX Biology and AP<sup>®</sup> United States Government and Politics several times a year. The document-based argument, an integral part of the AP<sup>®</sup> 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 10A/B**

**132100/132200**

### **ENGLISH 10A/B, HONORS**

**132300/132400**

This course integrates the processes of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing with the study of the contents of language and literature. Students develop critical reasoning skills and strategies for close reading of texts from a variety of genres and time periods during two thematic units. Students complete mandatory common tasks that focus primarily on the writing process but include development of other language skills.

*Prerequisite:* Attainment of outcomes of English 9

English 10 is in the honors program. Students may take the course at the honors level by registering using the honors course code.

**ENGLISH 10A/B, APEX****132322/132422**

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.

The year culminates in a dramatization via video or film of an entire novel. Students divided into groups take portions of the novel, translate it into another medium, and present their twenty-five to forty minute films on consecutive days.

*Prerequisite:* Acceptance into the APEX Scholars Program

**ENGLISH 10A/B, ESOL****132112/132212**

This course provides an instructional bridge between ESOL classes and regular English classes. Students exiting ESOL by test will receive the training they need for success in regular English. Skills taught in the class include organizing essays, analyzing selected literary texts, writing about literature, recognizing literary devices, expanding vocabulary, taking notes, and doing research.

In order to function truly as a bridge, the course should be the only English credit that the student is taking. This is NOT A BASIC SKILLS CLASS. No student enters this class unless s/he has recently exited ESOL by test, is recommended by the ESOL teacher, and has not taken a regular English class before. Bridge is organized so that a student may take two semesters if necessary. No student should take more than two semesters; otherwise, h/she will be repeating the credit.

Grade Level: 10

**ENGLISH 11A/B****133100/133200****ENGLISH 11A/B, HONORS****133300/133400**

This course integrates the processes of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing with the study of the contents of language and literature. Students develop critical reasoning skills and strategies for close reading of texts from a variety of genres and time periods during two thematic units. Students complete mandatory common tasks that focus primarily on the writing process but include development of other language skills.

*Prerequisite:* Attainment of outcomes of English 10

**ENGLISH 12A/B, HONORS****134300/134400**

This course integrates the processes of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing with the study of the contents of language and literature. Students develop critical reasoning skills and strategies for close reading of texts from a variety of genres and time periods during two thematic units. Students complete mandatory common tasks that focus primarily on the writing process but include development of other language skills.

*Prerequisite:* Attainment of outcomes of English 11

**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

**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

## **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

### **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: 9-10-11-12

No repeats for credit

### **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.

*Prerequisite:* Theater 1 or permission of teacher

Grade Level: 10-11-12

### **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****JOURNALISM 2: NEWSPAPER, "The Pitch"****115200/115300**

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 who have not completed Journalism 1 may register for Journalism 2. They will not write for the print version, but may participate in the online version or as photographers or artists for the Pitch newspaper.

**JOURNALISM 2: LITERARY MAGAZINE, *Spectator*****115220/115320**

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

**MUSICAL 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