ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

ENGLISH 9 A HONORS 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 approach literature as apprentice writers, learning from professional authors how to wield the power of well-chosen words and skillfully crafted sentences.

ENGLISH 9 B HONORS 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.

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 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® 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.
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.
Grade Level: 10-11-12

ENGLISH 10 A/B, HONORS APEX 13233300/13243300
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
Grade Level: 10-11-12

ENGLISH 11 A/B, HONORS 133300/133400
This course includes four thematic units: Examining Argument in Print and Visual Texts, Challenging Truth in Narrative, Questioning Society’s Conscience, and Exploring Individual Ambition and Desire. Each unit is anchored by: a theme, a type of text important to American culture, and a style discourse. 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.
Prerequisite: Attainment of outcomes of English 10
Grade Level: 11-12
ENGLISH 12 A/B, HONORS
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. The four thematic units of the course focus on world literature, both classic and contemporary, challenging students to study texts from different genres and to discuss why literature continues to matter.
Prerequisite: Attainment of outcomes of English 11
Grade Level: 11-12

AP® ENGLISH 11 - LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION A/B
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
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

STAGE DESIGN – 2nd 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 – 1st 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 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

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

Grade 9 – 10 – 11 – 12

Journalism 2: Yearbook A/B

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

Journalism 2: Yearbook A/B May be repeated 2 times
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
0.5 credit per semester
Students focus on the skills required in theater direction. Study centers on the director as interpretive 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 theater forms as culminating productions.

Prerequisite: Theater 1 and 2
Grade Level: 11-12
No repeats for credit.

CULTURE IN LITERATURE  101900
In this one semester course, students examine tests whose authors represent cultural and ethnic groups from around the world. Through their reading of essays, poems, short stories, novels, and films, students develop a greater awareness of cultural dynamics and a deeper understanding of how cultural perspectives are reflected in literature.

Grade Level: 11-12  No repeats for credit

MEDIA IN SOCIETY  234400
Media in Society focuses on the systematic analysis of information received through various mass media to help students develop independent judgments about media content. Students investigate The Culture of Media in an Image-Based Society; Media, Law, and Ethics; and Media and the Political Process. To complete a research project, students study a current media issue in depth and extend their knowledge of research techniques.

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: 9-10-11-12  No repeats for credit