

LANGUAGE ARTS - HIGH SCHOOL

General Course Description

The honors language arts high school program is designed to challenge students' interests and skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing. It is assumed that students have a solid knowledge of the linguistic and grammatical conventions of the English language and are therefore able to develop poise and confidence in the various language activities. **A writing sample may be required.**

Students are expected to use creative approaches to the study of literature and practice of writing. They will read and write often, exploring a variety of genres. Writing assignments focus on the writing of narratives, poems, plays, and critical responses to literature, including essays in exposition and argument. Reading assignments include drama, poetry, biography, autobiography, short story, essay, novel and mythology.

Students participate in class discussion, writing workshops, peer conferences, field trips, and inter-departmental collaborations. Training in word processing and computer availability provide added dimensions to their study of language. Students are also offered the opportunity to submit their writings to the Academy's art and literary magazine, *ICONS*, and to local, state and national writing competitions. Seniors are expected to take the Advanced Placement English Language exam and juniors are expected to take the AP Composition and English Literature exams.

Program Goals

1. The student will be able to read critically and to evaluate, recognizing inference, implications and assumptions.
2. The student will be versed in a wide range of literary genres.
3. The student will demonstrate the ability to read literature analytically, with understanding, interest, and a sense of inquiry.
4. The student will demonstrate the ability to respond to literature actively and imaginatively in writing and in class discussions.
5. The student will demonstrate the ability to use a wide variety of reference materials and electronic resources for research.
6. The student will recognize the different purposes and methods of writing, identify a writer's point of view and tone, and interpret a writer's meaning inferentially and literally.
7. The student will recognize that writing is a process, a way of collecting information and formulating ideas, drafting and revising what has been written.
8. The student will demonstrate skill in using the conventions of standard written and spoken English.
9. The student will demonstrate the ability to write appropriately for different purposes, audiences, and in a variety of genres.
10. The student will recognize the importance of the roles of both speakers and listeners in classroom discussions, lectures, and presentations.
11. The student will use the computer for word processing, presentation, and collection and retrieval of information.
12. The student will be knowledgeable of career choices related to language arts and will explore one or more in depth.
13. The student will understand the interdisciplinary relationship of the arts and academic areas.
14. The student will demonstrate knowledge of cultural diversity through the study of world literature.