



# HSHS English Department

## Course Selection Guide Ninth-Grade Courses

### Core Courses: English I OR Honors English I

Students should work closely with their middle-school English teachers for appropriate recommendations for English I classes. The department reserves the right to change placements based on final averages and End-of-Grade test (EOG) scores. The following guidelines are used to determine level placement in English:

- Academic:
1. reads on grade level
  2. scores mid-3 or below on the Reading portion of the EOG
  3. is currently in standard-level Language Arts classes
- Honors:
1. reads *above* grade level
  2. works well independently and in collaborative settings
  3. scores 4 or high-3 on the Reading portion of EOG
  4. currently in advanced-level Language Arts classes

*Students are NOT permitted to take two core English courses simultaneously without the approval of the English department.*

Special Note: Students must pass the English I End-of-Course test (EOC) and all four years of core English courses in order to graduate from high school. Students whose previous scores reflect the need for further study will be placed in intervention classes, such as Introduction to High School Writing or Study Skills (Freshmen-in-Transition).

### Electives for 9<sup>th</sup>-Graders

#### **Creative Writing I**

This course is designed for students interested in writing original poetry, plays, and short stories. Students will analyze published and peer short stories, poetry, and musical lyrics; work cooperatively and independently on a variety of projects, such as a children's book and travel brochure; and prepare original work for consideration in creative writing contests.

#### **Introduction to Communications and Mass Media**

This course is a prerequisite to all other Newspaper and Yearbook publications courses. Students will examine the basics of writing, design, and production of publications, as well as current industry issues.

#### **Speech I**

In this course, students will prepare speeches, deliver them to class audiences, and participate in class discussions. Students will develop poise and effective techniques for various speaking situations, including the Graduation Project requirement for all high-school students.

#### **Trends and Movements in Young Adult Literature**

Students will read a variety of literature which has been written specifically for teens. Among required activities are participation in literature circles, analysis of works, research, and other response activities.

Please direct questions to Karen Burden, HSHS English Chairperson at [kburden@wcpss.net](mailto:kburden@wcpss.net)