

# ENGLISH

Course Title	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
<b>Required Courses:</b>					
English 8 or Advanced English 8 or English 8 Foundations	X				
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Seminar	X				
English 9 or Honors English 9 or English 9 Foundations		X			
Speech 9		X			
English 10 or Honors English 10 or AP Seminar			X		
English 11 or Honors American Literature or AP Seminar				X	
English 12 or Advanced Composition or A.P. Literature & Comp. or AP Seminar					X
<b>Elective Courses:</b>					
English as a Second Language	X	X	X	X	X
8th Grade Theater	X				
Introduction to Theater		X	X	X	X
Theater & Film Production		X	X	X	X
Stagecraft		X	X	X	X
The Art of Modern Storytelling			X	X	X



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Digital News Production			X	X	X
Yearbook			X	X	X
Film Studies			X	X	X
Communication for Leadership & Life			X	X	X
Writing for Business			X	X	X

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Five (5) credits or ten (10) semesters of English are required throughout grades 8 - 12.
2. Each student is to register for one (1) credit course of English each semester.
3. One (1) quarter credit of Speech is required in grade 9.
4. One (1) credit (2 semesters) of Art is required for graduation. The following elective courses under English fulfill that Art requirement: Intro to Theater, Theater & Film Production and Stagecraft.

\* Courses with a star are approved by NCAA

## English 8

**Course#:** A-S1 (0080) B-S2 (0081) – Full Year Required Course

**Grade Levels:** 8

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** English 8 covers a broad study of reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Literature will include short stories, novels, nonfiction, and poetry. Other emphases include grammar, paragraph, and essay writing. Preparation for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade MCA Reading Test is a part of this course.

**Instructional Methods and Assessments:** Lectures, discussions, and assigned readings are the primary methods of instruction in this course. Students will be assessed by means of homework assignments, quizzes, tests, essays, and creative projects.

**Basis for Student Success:** Students should be prepared to work in an organized and independent manner. Students are expected to keep up with daily reading and homework assignments. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade English is an opportunity for students to develop time management and organizational skills that will be necessary throughout high school and beyond.



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## English 8 Foundations

**Course#:** A-S1 (0078) B-S2 (0079) – Full Year Required Course

**Grade Levels:** 8

**Prerequisites:** Enrollment in the class is based on prior standardized test scores and/or teacher recommendation.

**Course Description:** English 8 Foundations is a team taught class that covers a broad study of reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Literature may include short stories, novels, nonfiction, poetry, and drama. Other emphases include grammar, reading fluency, vocabulary, and writing. The co-taught format provides students the chance to have additional support for their areas of growth while also being given a challenge and the space to find success and engagement in a personalized curriculum and enriched learning environment.

**Instructional Methods and Assessments:** Lectures, discussions, group and choice readings are the primary methods of instruction in this course. Students will be assessed by means of daily assignments, quizzes, tests, essays, and creative projects. There will be structured and supported class time for all assignments. This course will provide students with confidence and excitement about reading and writing as well as focusing on helping students achieve grade-level standards.

**Basis for Student Success:** Students should be prepared to work in an organized and independent as well as collaborative manner. Co-taught 8<sup>th</sup> Grade English is an opportunity for students to develop time management and organizational skills that will be necessary throughout high school and beyond.

## Advanced English 8

**Course#:** A-S1 (0084) B-S2 (0085) – Full Year Required Course

**Grade Levels:** 8

**Prerequisites:** Advanced LA 7 or Teacher recommendation and a summer reading assignment.

**NOTE:** Advanced English 8 & Advanced Global Studies will be interdisciplinary courses. Students should enroll in both.

**Course Description:** Advanced English 8 is a rigorous study of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and discussion skills. Literature will include short stories, novels, nonfiction, and poetry. There is an emphasis on understanding literature on an analytical level and developing higher-order thinking skills. Students can expect to be challenged in writing, with emphasis on the five-paragraph essay, literary analysis, and creative writing. Other areas include grammar, vocabulary, independent reading, and research.

**Instructional Methods and Assessments:** Class discussion and collaborative work are the primary methods of instruction in this class. Students will be assessed through quizzes, tests, journals, discussions, essays, creative writing, oral presentations, and projects.



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**Basis for Student Success:** Students should be eager to accept the challenge of reading and discussing assignments of 20-30 pages per night and responding to literature through writing with the use of higher-order thinking skills. Writing skills should include competent grammar, vocabulary, sentence structure, and paragraph construction with a basic knowledge of essay writing. Successful students strive for academic challenge and depth.

## 8th Grade Seminar

**Course#:** 0082 - Quarter Required Course (Combined with Health 8 for semester)

**Grade Level:** 8

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Seminar is a class designed to assist 8<sup>th</sup> grade students with high school transition and prepare them for academic success. Students will learn techniques that will prepare them to be independent learners, develop efficiency, improve academic performance, be proactive, learn to self-advocate, make good decisions, and think critically. This class will focus on skills in the areas of academics, organization, technology integration, and the development of an individual management system. ***Note: Students will take this course during the same semester as Health 8 in the alternating quarter.***

**Instructional Methods & Assessments:** Students will receive daily instruction in the areas of academic skill development (studying for and taking tests, effective textbook reading and note taking), and organizational skill development. Students will be assessed on the implementation of the above-mentioned skills, weekly activities, and weekly journal entries related to class discussion topics. The coursework for this class is self-paced.

**Basis for Student Success:** Students will be expected to complete course assignments, participate in daily discussion, come to class prepared, and develop an individual management system.

## English 9 \*

**Course#:** A-S1 (0090) B-S2 (0091) – Full Year Required Course

**Grade Levels:** 9

**Prerequisites:** English 8 or Adv. English 8

**Course Description:** This course is a comprehensive study of the English language and focuses on both written and oral communications. Students are expected to write compositions for a variety of purposes. The literature selected includes short stories, novels, nonfiction, poetry, and drama. Form and content are studied in each genre. Students will also work on developing reading strategies and analysis skills for both nonfiction and fiction texts.

**Instructional Methods and Assessments:** Class discussion and collaborative work are the primary methods of instruction in this class. Students will be assessed by means of quizzes, tests, journals, discussion, essays, creative writing, oral presentations, and projects. The use of technology will be incorporated into this course.



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**Basis for Student Success:** Students should expect to read 20 pages per day, actively participate in discussions, and hand in assignments on time. We encourage students to review and study materials before class discussions and tests.

## English 9 Foundations

**Course#:** A-S1 (0088) B-S2 (0089) – Full Year Required Course

**Grade Levels:** 9

**Prerequisites:** Enrollment in the class is based on prior standardized test scores and/or teacher recommendation.

**Course Description:** English 9 Foundations is a team-taught class that covers a broad study of reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Literature may include short stories, novels, nonfiction, poetry, and drama. Other emphases include reading fluency, vocabulary, and writing. The co-taught format provides students the opportunity to receive additional support in a space where they can feel engaged and find success.

**Instructional Methods and Assessments:** Lectures, discussions, group, and choice readings are the primary methods of instruction in this course. Students will be assessed by means of daily assignments, quizzes, tests, essays, and creative projects. There will be structured and supported class time for all assignments. This course aims to help students re-discover excitement for reading while also helping them achieve grade-level reading success by strengthening their reading and writing skills.

**Basis for Student Success:** Students should be prepared to work both independently and collaboratively. Co-taught English 9 is an opportunity for students to develop time management and organizational skills that will be necessary throughout high school and beyond.

## Honors English 9 \*

**Course#:** A-S1 (0094) B-S2 (0095) – Full Year Required Course

**Grade Levels:** 9

**Prerequisites:** English 8 or Advanced English 8; Teacher recommendation and a summer reading assignment.

**Course Description:** Honors English 9 is a rigorous study of reading, writing, speaking, grammar, listening, and discussion skills. Literature will include short stories, novels, nonfiction, and drama, with an emphasis on understanding literature on an analytical level and developing higher order thinking skills. Students can expect to be challenged in writing, with emphasis on mastery of the five-paragraph essay, research, literary analysis essays, and creative writing pieces. Students will also work on developing reading strategies and analysis skills for both nonfiction and fiction texts.

**Instructional Methods and Assessments:** Class discussion and collaborative work are the primary methods of instruction in this class. Students will be assessed by means of quizzes, tests, journals, discussion participation, essays, creative writing, oral presentations, and projects. Students will study grammar and non-fiction texts in a self-paced environment.



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**Basis for Student Success:** Students should be eager to accept the challenge of reading and discussing assignments of 25 pages per day and responding to literature through writing with the use of higher order thinking skills. Writing skills should include competent grammar, vocabulary, sentence structure, paragraph, and essay construction. Successful students strive for academic challenge and depth.

## Speech 9

**Course#:** 0092 – Quarter Required Course (combined with Health 9 for semester)

**Grade Levels:** 9

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** This course is an introduction to public speaking. Students will learn how to organize and deliver speeches for a variety of purposes: informational, persuasive, and entertainment. The purpose of this course is to improve students' oratory skills and their comfort level speaking in front of an audience. All students are required to take this course during the 9th Grade year. ***Note: Students will take this course during the same semester as Health 9 in the alternating quarter.***

**Instructional Methods and Assessments:** Lecture, discussion, and demonstrations are the primary methods for presenting course material. Speeches will be written and prepared in a self-paced environment. Students will be assessed primarily through oral presentations.

**Basis for Student Success:** Students must be motivated to develop and improve their oral communication skills. Students must complete all the preparation steps before presenting the formal speeches. Students are encouraged to practice on their own and with peers to improve their speaking skills prior to assessment.

## English 10 \*

**Course#:** A-S1 (0100) B-S2 (0101) – Full Year Required Course

**Grade Levels:** 10

**Prerequisites:** English 9 or Honors English 9

**Course Description:** Students read literature emphasizing the theme of the individual in society. The study of novels, nonfiction, plays, poetry, mythology, and short stories builds skills of literary analysis and interpretation. Weekly root words and grammar exercises enhance students' continued development of written communication skills. Student writing may include expository, descriptive, creative, persuasive, and research.

**Instructional Methods and Assessments:** Methods include a combination of lectures, large and small group discussions, and individual assignments. Students and teacher will use technology to research and share information with the class. Assessment is based on participation in class activities, quizzes and tests on readings, root words tests, essays, and presentations.



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**Basis for Student Success:** Students should expect to complete daily reading assignments, actively participate in discussions, and hand in assignments on time. We encourage students to review and study materials before tests.

## Honors English 10 \*

**Course#:** A-S1 (0104) B-S2 (0105) - Full Year Required Course

**Grade Levels:** 10

**Prerequisites:** English 9 or Honors English 9; Teacher recommendation and a summer reading assignment.

**Course Description:** Students read literature emphasizing the theme of heroes and villains. The study of novels, nonfiction, plays, poetry, mythology, and short stories builds skills of literary analysis, interpretation, and higher-level critical thinking. Vocabulary, root words, and grammar exercises emphasize usage and sentence skills. Student writing includes journals, as well as expository, persuasive, and analytical essays. Emphasis is placed on self-evaluation and revision of student work.

**Instructional Methods and Assessments:** Methods include a combination of lectures, large and small group discussions, and individual and collaborative group assignments. Assessment is based on participation in class activities, quizzes and tests on readings, vocabulary and root words tests, essays, and presentations.

**Basis for Student Success:** Students will need to read 25 pages per day and actively participate in discussions. We encourage students to review and study materials before tests. Competent sentence and paragraph construction as well as articulate essay writing are expected of students. Successful students accept academic challenges and strive for depth.

## AP Seminar (Grades 10-12)

**Course#:** A-S1 (0106) B-S2 (0107)- Full Year Required Course

**Grade Levels:** 10-12

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** AP Seminar is a foundational course that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. Using an inquiry framework, students practice reading and analyzing articles, research studies, and foundational, literary, and philosophical texts; listening to and viewing speeches, broadcasts, and personal accounts; and experiencing artistic works and performances. Students learn to synthesize information from multiple sources, develop their own perspectives in written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as part of a team. Ultimately, the course aims to equip students with the power to analyze and evaluate information with accuracy and precision in order to craft and communicate evidence-based arguments.



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**Instructional Methods and Assessments:** Lectures, discussions, assigned readings, group work, presentations, debates, writing, and inquiry-based research will be used to teach this course. Students will be assessed through homework, discussion, presentations, quizzes, exams, written assignments, and projects.

**Basis for Student Success:** While no specific prerequisites are required, strong reading, writing, and critical thinking skills will benefit students in this challenging and rewarding course.

## English 11 \*

**Course#:** A-S1 (0112) B-S2 (0113) - Full Year Required Course

**Grade Level:** 11

**Prerequisites:** English 10 or Honors English 10

**Course Description:** English 11 provides a number of reading experiences with the emphasis on analysis. The novels, plays, and short stories selected will have contemporary themes and content relating to events in the modern world. Students will be expected to complete two major papers of literature analysis, required projects, and daily reading assignments. This course will also incorporate smaller writing assignments that focus on writing for the Twenty-First Century by enhancing practical and technical writing skills as well as literature based. Students will work on vocabulary development, review grammar and usage, and prepare for standardized tests such as the ACT.

**Instructional Methods and Assessments:** Lectures and discussion based on assigned readings are the primary instructional methods. Students will be assessed by means of homework, quizzes, unit tests, essays, oral presentations, and written projects.

**Basis for Student Success:** Students will be expected to keep up with daily reading and homework assignments. It is also expected that students take responsibility for managing time and completing long-range assignments. Students will be expected to word-process formal essays using MLA format.

## Honors American Literature \*

**Course#:** A-S1 (0116) B-S2 (0117) – Full Year Required Course

**Grade Levels:** 11

**Prerequisites:** English 10 or Honors English 10, Teacher recommendation and a summer reading assignment.

**Course Description:** Honors American Literature emphasizes the use of higher-level critical reading and writing skills to interpret and write about important American works. Students in this class will be introduced to American authors such as F. Scott Fitzgerald, Arthur Miller, Louise Erdrich, Tim O'Brien, Octavia Butler, James McBride, Lorraine Hansberry, and Emily Dickinson. This course enhances student understanding with additional readings and more demanding assignments. Generally, students should expect to read two novels or plays and write one to two



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major papers during each quarter. These papers will focus on developing the skills and writing voice needed for post-high school courses. Students will also work on language development, review grammar and usage skills, and prepare for standardized tests such as the ACT.

**Instructional Methods and Assessments:** Lectures, discussions, and projects based on assigned readings are the primary instructional methods. Students will be assessed by means of quizzes, tests, essays, oral presentations, and written projects.

**Basis for Student Success:** Students will be expected to keep up with daily reading and homework assignments. Students are also expected to take responsibility for managing time and completing long-range assignments. Students will be expected to write using proper MLA format.

## English 12 \*

**Course#:** A-S1 (0121) B-S2 (0122) – Full Year Required Course

**Grade Levels:** 12

**Prerequisites:** English 11 or Honors American Literature

**Course Description:** English 12 A and B takes a classical thematic approach to literature by focusing on similarities and differences, patterns and relationships in various kinds of literature and writing, drawing conclusions, and using textual evidence in composition writing. Emphasis is placed on post-secondary preparation in reading complex texts and composition. Major reading focus is on world literature from different time periods. One major oral presentation is required per quarter, several in class papers, one major paper per quarter, a sixteen to twenty-one page MLA research paper, and weekly vocabulary enrichment. Each quarter students are required to attend and evaluate a cultural event. All seniors are also required to complete a summer reading assignment.

**Instructional Methods and Assessments:** Lectures, discussion, collaborative groups, assigned readings, and various compositions will be used to teach this course. Students will be assessed by means of homework, in class work, formative and summative assessments, essays, oral presentations, and group projects.

**Basis for Student Success:** Students taking English 12 A and B will be required to stay current with homework, required readings, projects, and compositions. Students are given clear dates and expectations for completion of these items.

## Advanced Composition \*

**Course#:** A-S1 (0123), B-S1 (0124) – Full Year Required Course

**Grade Levels:** 12

**Prerequisites:** English 11 or Honors American Literature 11 summer reading assignment

**Course Description:** This course emphasizes the use of higher level critical reading and writing skills to interpret and write about important world literature. This class is for post secondary students who need more experience analyzing complex literature and writing



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analytical compositions. Considerable time is spent studying and applying elements of literature and composition and applying MLA style. Readings consist of poetry, plays, short stories, and several major novels each quarter. Students will write several in class essays, two page papers, a five-page paper, and a 7 to 10 page research paper throughout the course. All students are required to complete summer reading.

**Instructional Methods and Assessments:** Lectures, small, and large group discussion are the primary instructional methods. Students will be assessed by means of homework, quizzes, essay exams, compositions, and both individual and group oral presentations.

**Basis for Student Success:** Students will be required to keep up with daily homework, assigned readings, composition deadlines, and weekly vocabulary enrichment. Students are given clear deadlines and expectations for completion of required items.

## AP English Literature & Composition \*

**Course#:** A-S1 (0125) B-S2 (0126) – Full Year Required Class

**Grade Levels:** 12

**Prerequisites:** Teacher recommendation and a summer reading assignment.

**Course Description:** The Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition course trains students to become skilled college-level readers and writers; it also offers students the opportunity to earn college credit. The reading selections explore complex themes found within drama, fiction, and poetry and will introduce students to high-level literary analysis skills. Students will write several academic essays in several modes; these essays will develop the student's voice, style, and organizational skills. These writing assignments will also prepare students for the rigors of college-level reading and writing. Students can expect to read an average of 30-35 pages a night and write several multi-page essays. All students are required to complete summer reading and writing.

**Instructional Methods and Assessments:** Lectures, discussions, assigned readings, group work, and essays will be used to teach this course. Students will be assessed through homework, discussion, presentations, quizzes, exams, and compositions.

**Basis for Student Success:** Students must adhere to deadlines for all homework, projects, compositions, discussion points, and presentations. The teacher provides the students with clear dates/expectations for all required coursework.

## 8th Grade Theatre

**Course#:** 0129 – Semester Elective

**Grade Levels:** 8

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** In this class, the students will be introduced to the components of acting and theater arts. The exercises designed for this course take the students from the simplest of



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pantomime activities through the more complex work of role-playing and improvisation. This is a great introductory class for a student who wants to learn more about the art of performance.

Students will develop skills in the areas of voice, movement, improvisation, and character development. Students will learn:

- overview of theatre and film history
- fundamentals of improvisation, diction, projection, and physical expression
- script analysis
- how to prepare for live performances
- foundational elements of play production, including set design, costuming, and makeup.

**Instructional Methods and Assessments:** Instructional methods include individual, partner, small, and large group exercises, hands-on scene-work, improvisation, and exercises to improve enunciation, projection, expression, imagination, and creativity. Students are graded on participation, preparation, and final performances for each unit.

**Basis for Student Success:** The class provides a broad overview of theatre and is designed for students with an interest in the performing arts - students who are interested in music, dance, art, acting, directing, makeup, costuming, or writing for the stage or screen will benefit greatly as “Theatre” incorporates all of these art forms.

## Introduction to Theatre (9-12)

**Course#:** 0130 – Semester Elective

**Grade Levels:** 9 - 12

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** Students will develop skills in the areas of voice, movement, improvisation, and character development.

Students will learn:

- overview of theatre and film history
- fundamentals of improvisation, diction, projection, and physical expression
- script analysis
- how to prepare for live performances
- foundational elements of play production, including set design, costuming, and makeup.

**Instructional Methods and Assessments:** Instructional methods include individual, partner, small, and large group exercises, hands-on scene-work, improvisation, and exercises to improve enunciation, projection, expression, imagination, and creativity. Students are graded on participation, preparation, and final performances for each unit.

**Basis for Student Success:** The class provides a broad overview of theatre and is designed for students with an interest in the performing arts - students who are interested in music, dance, art, acting, directing, makeup, costuming, or writing for the stage or screen will benefit greatly as “Theatre” incorporates all of these art forms.



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## Theater and Film Production

**Course#:** 0131 – Semester Elective

**Grade Levels:** 9 - 12

**Prerequisite:** Need to meet one of the following criteria:

- Complete an Intro Class
- Previous stage or film acting experience
- Competitive Speech experience
- Teacher Recommendation

**Course Description:** This course is designed for those students who wish to work in-depth on characterization using monologue, scene, improvisation, film, and other forms of dramatic performance. Students will develop the independence and confidence essential in creating a characterization both through class/workshop-style activities and public performances. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to study techniques involved in film production.

**Instructional Methods and Assessments:**

- Duo or Trio Scene work
- Memorized Audition Monologues (comedic, dramatic, Shakespearean)
- Film Audition and Acting Technique
- Student direction of scenes
- Improvisation and One-Act Play Creation
- Introduction to Playwriting and Film Writing
- Short Film Production
- Students are graded on participation, preparation, and performance.

**Basis for Student Success:** The class is designed for students with a strong interest in performing. Mature students who are able to work well independently and with groups and who manage their time and meet deadlines will be most successful in this class.

## Stagecraft

**Course#:** 0127 – Semester Elective

**Grade Levels:** 9 - 12

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** This course trains the student in all areas of theater practice except acting. Students learn the skills needed to construct and paint scenery, hang and focus lighting instruments, and implement a sound system. Students may aid in the creation of props and costumes. Practical experience is gained in the construction of sets and stage materials for WHS plays and musicals. This course can be taken more than once.

**Instructional Methods and Assessments:** Instructional methods will include hands-on training in elements of stage production. Students will receive training from both the instructor and community experts. Students will be assessed on their participation and contributions to group projects.



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**Basis for Student Success:** The class is designed for students with an interest in the backstage elements of theater production. No prior experience is needed, but students should be able to work independently, collaborate effectively with others, and behave responsibly in a workshop setting.

## The Art of Modern Storytelling

**Course#:** 0114 – Semester Elective

**Grade Levels:** 10 - 12

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** In this course, students will explore writing in the modern world and learn to create engaging content in today's most popular forms including blogs, podcasts, and film while exploring ways to modernize more traditional storytelling through social media, visual content, and audience interaction. This course will give students the ability to write, produce, and edit with a focus on storytelling, audience engagement, and online media best practices. Throughout the semester, students will improve their writing skills, explore various techniques and forms, and work in both individual and collaborative projects to create original content. By the end of the course, students will have built a portfolio of original writing covering a range of topics and forms. They will also gain experience with the technical side of content creation, using tools to edit audio, manage online platforms, and promote their work. This course is ideal for students interested in journalism, creative writing, media studies, or simply looking to enhance their skills as communicators and digital creators.

**Instructional Methods and Assessments:** The workshop setting of this class creates an atmosphere conducive to brainstorming, sharing, and feedback amongst participants. Students will be expected to complete short readings on the craft of writing as part of their instruction. Instruction will be delivered through large and small group discussion, and individual practice and conferences. Daily self- and peer-assessments are keys to learning in this class, while rubrics are used to assess more formal writing assignments.

**Basis for Student Success:** Students should come with open minds and a passion for creating new writing. A willingness to share one's work and ideas, to critique, and to be critiqued are also required for success in this course.

## Digital News Production

**Course#:** A-S1 (0132) B-S2 (0133) – Semester or Full Year Elective

**Grade Levels:** 10-12

**Prerequisites:** Teacher Approval- Please complete [the course application](#)

**Course Description:** TV and Digital News Production is a class designed for students in grades 10-12. The course is an opportunity to engage in digital media production. Students will produce a school show that will highlight WHS students, staff, and programs. Students will also be encouraged to work on digital projects and stories that showcase students' interests.



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Students will work in collaborative teams to gain skills in the areas of video production and journalism. Students will also learn about the foundations of journalism and the art of producing digital news.

**Instructional Methods and Assessments:** Students will receive direct instruction to support the tools, strategies, and skills required to create a quality online digital news show. Students will be assessed on skills related to on-air performance, technical production, problem-solving, story development, writing, editing, and video production through hands-on, project-based assessments.

**Basis for Student Success:** Students should be prepared to work in a collaborative, project-based environment and embrace their role as a “storyteller” at WHS. Content will be generated regularly, so the ability to meet deadlines is critical. The pace will naturally create a learning environment that will be both fun, and professional, and will require skills of creation, collaboration, critical thinking/problem-solving, and communication. Students wishing to take this course must complete the application linked above.

## Yearbook

**Course#:** A-S1 (0134), B-S2 (0135) – Semester or Full Year Elective

**Grade Levels:** 10 - 12

**Prerequisites:** Teacher Approval- Please complete [the course application](#)

**Course Description:** Yearbook is a challenging course in which students have the unique opportunity to write a book, create content, prepare a publication for printing, run a business, and record history. The course is designed to provide students the opportunity to work with technology, strengthen their analytical and problem-solving skills, improve their communication skills, and manage tremendous responsibility. Students will use Jostens’ software for designing and producing the yearbook. Yearbook students practice the artistic fundamentals of multimedia design, journalistic writing, photojournalism, graphic design, and budget management. Students will also develop their abilities to work as a team as they produce the yearbook.

**Instructional Methods and Assessments:** Instructional methods include: hands-on instruction in the use of digital cameras and photo editing software, small and large group evaluation of projects, self-evaluation of projects, and analysis of current print production methods. Assessments include daily work, tests, event coverage, and projects.

**Basis for Student Success:** Students should have basic grammar and technology skills, the time and commitment to attend out-of-school events for photo opportunities, the ability to complete projects promptly, and the self-discipline to complete assignments during the class on the computer without constant supervision. Students wishing to take this course must complete the application linked above.



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## Film Studies

**Course#:** 0108 - Semester Elective

**Grade Levels:** 10-12

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** In Film Studies, students will dive into the world of cinema, exploring its history, language, and impact on society. This course is designed for anyone interested in understanding film as both an art form and a powerful means of storytelling. By examining classic and contemporary films, students will learn to analyze and interpret visual storytelling techniques, narrative structures, and the various artistic elements that make film unique. The course will cover a broad range of film genres, movements, and styles from different cultures and time periods, providing a comprehensive overview of cinema's evolution. Students will study the work of influential directors, cinematographers, and screenwriters, exploring how their choices shape a film's message and audience experience. In addition to viewing films, students will participate in discussions, write analytical essays, and complete creative projects that allow them to explore their own interpretations and responses to film. By the end of the course, students will develop a critical eye for film analysis, an understanding of film history and theory, and an appreciation for the cultural and social impact of cinema. This course is ideal for students interested in storytelling, visual arts, media studies, or anyone who wants to deepen their appreciation and understanding of film.

**Instructional Methods and Assessments:** Instructional methods include film screenings, lectures, discussions, written analysis, group work, creative projects, and interactive media analysis. Assessments include daily work, film analysis, small group discussions, and creative projects.

**Basis for Student Success:** Students should have a basic understanding of written analysis. Because film screenings will happen during class time, students should be prepared to be in attendance and to work on homework assignments outside of class.

## Communication for Leadership & Life

**Course#:** 0109 - Semester Elective

**Grade Levels:** 10-12

**Prerequisites:** Passed Speech 9

**Course Description:** In Communication for Leadership and Life, students will develop the skills needed to confidently and effectively speak in real-world scenarios, including persuasive speaking, effective speech writing for real-world situations, debate, impromptu speaking opportunities, and leading discussions or business meetings. The course focuses on crafting clear, engaging messages tailored to different audiences and settings, preparing students for success in college, careers, and leadership roles. Guest speakers from corporate and community leadership roles will provide real-world insights into the importance of public speaking across various professions. This course is ideal for students interested in careers in leadership, business, education, media, or any field requiring strong communication skills.



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**Instructional Methods and Assessments:** Instructional methods include speech analysis, practical simulations, formal and informal speaking opportunities, alongside guest speakers and peer feedback.

**Basis for Student Success:** Students should have strong communication skills, as well as a willingness to participate actively and accept constructive feedback. A foundation in writing and a desire to improve their public speaking abilities are also beneficial.

## Writing for Business: Copywriting, SEO, and Social Media Strategies

**Course#:** 0110 - Semester Elective

**Grade Levels:** 10-12

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** In Writing for Business: Copywriting, SEO, and Social Media Strategies, students will learn the essentials of professional writing in today's digital landscape. This course focuses on the skills needed to create compelling content that drives engagement, communicates brand messages, and reaches target audiences. Students will explore the art of persuasive copywriting, the fundamentals of search engine optimization (SEO), and strategies for effective social media communication—all critical skills in modern marketing, business, and media careers. Throughout the course, students will develop a range of practical skills, including how to write clear, persuasive, and impactful copy for various business needs: websites, social media, email marketing, and advertising. They will learn how SEO techniques enhance visibility and help content reach a broader audience. Additionally, students will explore social media trends and strategies, practice creating engaging posts, understand platform algorithms, and analyze metrics to tailor content to specific audiences. By the end of the course, students will have a portfolio of original business writing samples, from optimized web content to social media campaigns, and an understanding of how writing drives business success. This course is ideal for students interested in business, marketing, digital media, or developing versatile communication skills for any career path.

**Instructional Methods and Assessments:** Instructional methods include lectures, group work, discussion, inquiry, written projects, and guest speakers when available. Assessments include daily work, group work, creative projects, presentations, and a final portfolio.

**Basis for Student Success:** Students should have strong writing and communication skills and a basic understanding of social media and common technological platforms.

