

# ENGLISH

Students in CHS English classes value the social nature and power of language. Classes build a reading and writing community where students share meaning, influence others' ideas, and create cultural connections. CHS students learn that language is a tool for gathering information and a way to construct and disseminate knowledge, create beauty, and inspire others. Students learn to recognize and use the structures and conventions of language as well as learn to struggle with ambiguity; through such struggle, thoughtful readers expand their personal perspectives and work to understand the unfamiliar. CHS English students value language as a tool for reflection and exploration of personal and intellectual concerns, and in doing so, become critical readers, writers and thinkers.

The department offers conferenced courses that require writing, conferencing, and revising five compositions per semester. A typical conference consists of a twenty-minute meeting between the student and teacher outside of classes. During this required conference, the student and teacher discuss writing one-on-one. The conferenced English program provides students with differentiated instruction that builds on a student's individual strengths while targeting areas for growth and improvement.

The graduation requirement in English is four units; three of these units must be conferenced courses. College Prep English I and II are required courses, while the third and fourth units may be chosen from English electives. The department strongly urges students to take American Literature junior year so that they graduate with an awareness of the national literature. Honors/AP placement is determined by the English Department.

## Essential Questions

In becoming critical readers, writers and thinkers, English students explore many "big questions." Some questions are particular to a work of literature or a particular time period. Some questions pertain to a particular type of writing or way of thinking. Other questions unify all of the work that we do. Among these questions are the following:

- **What is the value of literature?**
- **How does literature help us interact with the world?**
- **How does one judge the value of a literary work?**
- **What is the best way to express a complex idea?**
- **What are the elements of effective communication?**
- **How does literature capture the zeitgeist of its era?**
- **How do reader expectations affect appreciation?**
- **How does this story challenge a widely-held belief?**
- **What qualities define a writer's distinctive voice?**
- **How do the first American writers address basic philosophical questions?**

## ENGLISH OFFERINGS

### GRADE 9

#### **College-Prep. English I\***

Honors English I\*  
Academic Reading I\*\*\*  
Newspaper Writing\*\*  
Forensics\*\*  
EL English\*\*\*  
EL Reading\*\*\*  
English I\*\*\*

### GRADE 11

#### **College-Prep. English III: American Lit.**

Honors American Literature  
Newspaper Writing\*\*  
Forensics\*\*  
Academic Reading I & II\*\*\*  
EL English\*\*\*  
EL Reading\*\*\*  
College-Prep English I/II-Credit Recovery  
English III\*\*\*

### GRADE 10

#### **College-Prep. English II\***

Honors English II\*  
Academic Reading I & II\*\*\*  
Newspaper Writing\*\*  
Forensics\*\*  
EL English\*\*\*  
EL Reading\*\*\*  
College Prep English I/II-Credit Recovery  
English II\*\*\*

### GRADE 12

AP English Literature  
AP English Language and Composition

#### **College-Prep. English IV**

Newspaper Writing\*\*  
Forensics\*\*  
Academic Reading I & II\*\*\*  
EL English\*\*\*  
EL Reading\*\*\*  
College-Prep English I/II-Credit Recovery  
English IV\*\*\*

\* One of these must be taken

\*\* Non-Conferenced courses

\*\*\* By teacher recommendation only

**Bold** = The typical choice for that grade level

## CONFERENCED COURSES

### REQUIRED COURSES: College-Prep. English I and II

#### HONORS ENGLISH I

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9th Grade  
Credit – 1 English credit  
Full Year

**Prerequisite:** English Department approval based on the score of a placement test and other criteria. The teacher of a student whose semester grade falls below a B- will carefully consider the best placement for the student the following year.

Designed for the ninth grader who possesses both a strong ability and great interest in the study of English, Honors English I provides a course of study that teaches students to think deeply and carefully through reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Independent readers in Honors English I study within these major works: Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Romeo and Juliet*, Sophocles' *Oedipus the King* and *Antigone*, Homer's *Odyssey*, William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*, and Malcolm Gladwell's *The Tipping Point*. Students also read other plays, essays, poetry, and novels, often independently. Composition assignments range from literary analyses to creative writing, with an emphasis on the former. Ten conferenced and revised compositions are required. Students design and deliver at least one oral presentation, likely a persuasive speech. *Students complete a reading and study assignment the summer before Honors English I.*

#### COLLEGE-PREP ENGLISH I

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9th Grade  
Credit - 1 English credit  
Full Year

This required course for ninth graders is designed to encourage students to think deeply and critically, broaden their reading experience, develop composition and grammar skills, and improve oral communication skills. Students will be introduced to narrative, persuasive, analytical, synthesis, and creative writing structures and will practice these skills though at least ten conferenced assignments. Students will design and deliver a persuasive speech as part of their study of persuasive writing. Major works will likely include Homer's *Odyssey*, William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*, William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, and Malcolm Gladwell's *The Tipping Point*, and Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*. The curriculum is supplemented by other contemporary and classic literature, short stories, poems, and essays. This course is designed to help move students toward independent reading of complex texts and thoughtful, purposeful writing.

#### ENGLISH I

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9th grade  
Credit – 1 English credit  
Full Year

**Prerequisite:** By teacher recommendation only

Because the English Department believes that in many cases the best way to group students for instruction is heterogeneously, some students enrolled in College-Prep. English I will require adapted and/or modified curricula to meet their developmental needs in literacy. These students will have individualized goals and will receive instruction and feedback based on their needs while staying in the College-Prep English classroom.

English I may be used as a designation for students who require modification in content, standards, and/or grading in the College-Prep. English I course. Students enrolled in English I will be introduced to the same course content as those students in the college-prep. curriculum. Texts and written assignments will follow the same thematic and skill content, but will be adjusted for each student's developmental level. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**

## **HONORS ENGLISH II**

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10th Grade

Credit - 1 English credit

Full Year

**Prerequisite: English Department approval based on placement criteria. The teacher of a student whose semester grade falls below a B- will carefully consider the best placement for the student the following year.**

Designed for the academically ambitious sophomore who has demonstrated a strong interest in and commitment to the study of English, this course emphasizes literature, vocabulary, writing, speaking, and listening. Students are expected to read at a mature level, simultaneously analyzing both content and form, and to write with clarity, precision, and sophistication about both literature and personal experiences. The recognition and importance of biblical allusions is a unifying thread between the semesters. Major works will likely include *Black Boy, 1984, The Catcher in the Rye*, nonfiction essays, *The Bible as/in Literature*, a variety of poetry and drama, and at least one Shakespearean play. Other works may include the memoir *Night*, Aristotle's *Poetics* and modern novels such as *A Thousand Acres* or *The Things They Carried*. Students are required to complete an independent reading project each quarter. In conjunction with the study of literature, students are required to give at least one formal oral presentation. Students are required to write, conference, and revise a minimum of ten compositions. ***Students complete a reading and writing assignment the summer before Honors English II.***

## **COLLEGE-PREP ENGLISH II**

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10th Grade

Credit – 1 English credit

Full Year

This literature and composition course is designed to expand those skills learned at the ninth-grade level. The writing genres include the following: literary analysis, the personal narrative, creative writing, and comparison-contrast. Students are expected to make effective use of thesis statements, topic sentences, introductions, transitions, and conclusions. Core works may include *The Bible as/in Literature*, a Shakespearean play (*Macbeth* and/or *Othello*), *The Catcher in the Rye, 1984*, and the memoir *Black Boy*. Additional literature may include *Night, The Things They Carried, Things Fall Apart*, and *Persepolis*. Students work on formal and informal presentations throughout the year. Other elements of study include grammar, short stories, nonfiction, and poetry. Students will also complete an independent reading assignment with related assessment. Students are required to write, conference, and revise ten compositions.

## **ENGLISH II**

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10th grade

Credit – 1 English credit

Full Year

**Prerequisite: By teacher recommendation only**

Because the English Department believes that in many cases the best way to group students for instruction is heterogeneously, some students enrolled in College-Prep English II will require adapted and/or modified curricula to meet their developmental needs in literacy. These students will have individualized goals and will receive instruction and feedback based on their needs while staying in the College-Prep English classroom.

English II may be used as a designation for students who require modification in content, standards, and/or grading in the College-Prep English II course. Students enrolled in English II will be introduced to the same course content

as those students in the college prep curriculum. Texts and written assignments will follow the same thematic and skill content but will be adjusted for developmental level. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**

## CONFERENCED ELECTIVES

**ELECTIVE COURSES:** Students must complete four semesters of elective English courses. The department urges students to take American Literature, ideally in 11th grade.

### HONORS AMERICAN LITERATURE

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11th Grade

Credit - 1 English credit

Full Year

**Prerequisite:** English Department approval based on placement criteria. The teacher of a student whose semester grade falls below a B- will carefully consider the best placement for the student the following year.

In this course, students engage in intensive and extensive reading of classic American literature in the context of American culture, moving chronologically from the pre-revolutionary era to the end of the 19th century and then up to contemporary literature. Students also read literature thematically, examining it in relation to ideas such as romanticism and transcendentalism, before considering the influence of more modern “-isms,” including realism, naturalism, and existentialism, followed by current theories, such as modernism and postmodernism. All such theoretical bases are tested against essential questions, and these theories are considered in relation to ongoing American issues, such as race relations, equality between the sexes, social class distinctions, and whether the pursuit of life, liberty and happiness is a reality or myth. Readings include works by Jefferson, Franklin, Hawthorne, Poe, Melville, Emerson, Thoreau, Dickinson, Whitman, Hemingway, and others; complete works may include *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, *The Scarlet Letter*, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *The Great Gatsby*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Death of a Salesman*, and *Song of Solomon*. Students complete an intensive research project and class presentation based on the works of an American author of critical merit. Students are required to write ten major compositions and participate in ten conferences over the year. ***Students also complete a reading and writing assignment the summer before Honors American Literature.***

### COLLEGE-PREP ENGLISH III: AMERICAN LITERATURE

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11th - 12th Grade (11th recommended)

Credit - 1 English credit

Full Year

In this college-preparatory course, students explore a variety of genres in order to understand American culture and the major writers, periods, and themes of American literature. The class situates the works of literature in their time periods, reinforcing the relationship between works of art and the culture that produces them. Students read major works such as *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, the poetry of Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson, *The Great Gatsby*, *Song of Solomon*, and excerpts from the works of Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau. Major works are supplemented by classic and contemporary dramas, including choices such as *Death of a Salesman*, *The Crucible*, *Fences*, and by novels such as *The Scarlet Letter*, *The Awakening*, and *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. Students are required to write, conference, and revise a minimum of ten compositions during the year.

### ENGLISH III

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11th grade

Credit – 1 English credit

Full Year

**Prerequisite:** By teacher recommendation only

Because the English Department believes that in many cases the best way to group students for instruction is heterogeneously, some students enrolled in American Literature will require adapted and/or modified curricula to meet their developmental needs in literacy. These students will have individualized goals and will receive instruction and feedback based on their needs while staying in the American Literature classroom.

English III may be used as a designation for students who require modification in content, standards, and/or grading in the College Prep. English III: American Literature course. Students enrolled in English III will be introduced to the same course content as those students in the C.P.E. III: American Literature curriculum. Texts and written assignments will follow the same thematic and skill content, but will be adjusted for developmental level. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**

## **A.P. ENGLISH LITERATURE**

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12th Grade

Credit – 1 English credit

Full Year

**Prerequisite: English department approval based on placement criteria. A student whose semester grade falls below a B- will meet with the teacher and parent to discuss the best placement for the student during second semester.**

A.P. English Literature is designed, in part, to prepare students to take the A.P. Literature and Composition exam. This exam emphasizes the skills of close reading and analysis of style through poetry and fictional prose. This course gives students the opportunity to hone their close reading and argumentation skills, makes them more comfortable with poetry analysis, and provides them practice in writing both at-home and in-class responses to literature. Throughout the course students examine such themes as Dream vs. Reality, Identity and Perception, Truth and Illusion, and The Nature of Morality. Major texts may include *Invisible Man*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Hamlet*, *As I Lay Dying*, *Heart of Darkness*, *The Metamorphosis*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and *Waiting for Godot*. In addition to these works, students read poems, short stories, and essays, complete at least one independent reading assignment, and choose from texts such as *Mrs. Dalloway* or *The Importance of Being Earnest*. During first semester, students complete a research paper on a major author. During second semester, they give a literary presentation on topics to be determined. Students are required to write, conference, and revise five compositions each semester. ***Students begin the author project the summer before A.P. Literature begins.***

## **A.P. ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION**

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12th Grade

Credit – 1 English credit

Full Year

**Prerequisite: English department approval based on placement criteria. A student whose semester grade falls below a B- will meet with the teacher and parent to discuss the best placement for the student second semester.**

Through critical reading in A.P. English Language and Composition, students develop a sophisticated awareness of the way generic conventions and the resources of language contribute to effective writing. “Beyond their academic lives, students should be able to use the literacy skills practiced in the course for personal satisfaction and responsible engagement in civic life” (College Board). Consequently, students develop sophistication in their own writing as they respond to complex issues and ideas. Students will read prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts, and write for a variety of purposes, most notably persuasion. The writing and discussion in the course focus on rhetorical analysis, argument, and synthesis, the key components of the A.P. Language and Composition exam, using primarily nonfiction works as the texts for developing these skills. Students are required to write, conference, and revise a minimum of five compositions each semester and to complete at least two independent reading assignments, in addition to group study of both book-length and shorter texts. Texts may include *Columbine*, *A Handmaid's Tale*, *In Cold Blood* and *Citizen: An American Lyric*. Students will conduct a research study of a topic of their own choosing and formally present their findings both semesters. ***Students also complete a reading and writing assignment the summer before A.P. Language and Composition.***

## COLLEGE-PREP ENGLISH IV

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12th Grade

Credit - 1 English credit

Full Year

This culmination of our college-preparatory program is designed to foster independence and creativity among our student readers and writers by asking them to build on the skills they have developed during preceding classes and to transfer those skills to new subjects. The motif of “social dialogues” emphasizes the role of communication in social issues. Reading selections will feature emphasis on diverse voices and student choice. Students will select, evaluate, synthesize, and respond to sources, including fiction, nonfiction, film, and other texts. The course features a capstone research project and presentation. Students are required to write, conference, and revise a minimum of five compositions each semester, including a reflective piece that may serve as the basis of a college application essay. There are four thematic units of study: Power Plays; Constructing Identity: Gender; Seeing the Unseen; and The Future: What’s Your Mission? Core texts for this course may include *Hamlet*, *Between the World and Me*, and *The Handmaid’s Tale*.

## ENGLISH IV

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12th grade

Credit – 1 English credit

Full Year

### **Prerequisite: By teacher recommendation only**

Because the English Department believes that in many cases the best way to group students for instruction is heterogeneously, some students enrolled in senior electives will require adapted and/or modified curricula to meet their developmental needs in literacy. These students will have individualized goals and will receive instruction and feedback based on their needs while staying in the College Prep. English IV classroom.

English IV may be used as a designation for students who require modification in content, standards, and/or grading in the senior elective course. Students enrolled in English IV will be introduced to the same course content as those students in the senior elective curriculum. Texts and written assignments will follow the same thematic and skill content, but will be adjusted for developmental level. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**

## NON-CONFERENCED COURSES

### FORENSICS

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9th – 12th grade

Credit - 1/2 English credit per semester (non-conferenced)

Semester - 1 or both (not 2nd semester only)

(Meets 0-hour plus lab times TBA)

This course is designed for those students who plan to participate in the interscholastic speech and debate program. Students will learn and practice the art and skills of competitive forensics. Students participate in the research, writing, and presentation of material for competition in debate, public speaking, and/or oral interpretation of literature. First quarter units will include close study of public speaking, oral interpretation, and debate. Following the first quarter, students will choose their own individual areas of focus. All students are required to compete in a forensics tournament held outside the regularly scheduled class time. First year students are required to compete in a minimum of four forensics tournaments during the year; varsity students are required to compete in a minimum of six forensics tournaments during the year. Students complete various long-term assignments individually and in small groups designed to prepare them for interscholastic competition. All students will play a major role in the preparation for and the production of the Clayton Fall Classic Speech and Debate Tournament. Competitive activities include public speaking (oratory, extemporaneous speaking, radio announcing), oral interpretation of literature (humorous interpretation, dramatic interpretation, duo interpretation, prose and poetry reading, storytelling) and debate (policy, public forum, Lincoln-Douglas). In addition, students may choose to present longer cuttings of literature that would be suitable for readers' theatre productions. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**

### NEWSPAPER WRITING

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9th - 12th Grade

Credit – 1 English credit (non-conferenced)

Full Year

**Prerequisite: By application and consent of instructor (Available for NON-CONFERENCED ENGLISH CREDIT ONLY – NOT AVAILABLE FOR PRACTICAL ART CREDIT.)**

Newspaper Writing is the class for reporters for the *Globe*, the school newspaper, and meets Tuesday, 0-hour, plus 2 hours lab time to be met every other day during lunch periods. The course encourages a hands-on approach to a variety of topics including news, feature, sports, and editorial writing, as well as introducing students to journalism style, history, law, and ethics. Students will engage in classroom group activities and written responses in addition to quizzes and tests over various aspects of journalism. All students will write a minimum of nine articles intended for publication over the year in addition to other class writing. Enrollment in the class is by application only. Interested students will pick up an application from the instructor in January. Newspaper staff will be selected in time to complete the enrollment process in February. Selection will be based on completion of the application, a writing sample, and teacher recommendation. Students interested in being a newspaper photographer should sign up for Photojournalism for Publication, and those interested in being artists should see the instructor about signing up for the independent study options for that work. **A workshop at the end of the summer is mandatory for all staff members.**



# ENGLISH CREDIT RECOVERY COURSES

## COLLEGE PREP ENGLISH I/II–CREDIT RECOVERY

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10th - 12th Grade

Credit – 1/2 English credit per semester

Semester – 2

This course is designed for students who have failed one semester of College Prep English I or College Prep English II. The course should be taken concurrently with another English class, including College Prep English II or any Conferenced English elective, so students can continue to earn the required four credits needed to graduate. In this class, students will read a variety of short stories, essays, poems, a novel or play, and an independent reading assignment. Students will also write and conference five compositions. The main focus of this class is for students to gain credit for failed English classes and to refine skills taught in College Prep. English I and College Prep. English II. Students in grades 10, 11, and 12 may take this class. Students may enroll for this class a maximum of two times. Students who have failed an entire year of College Prep English I or II should recover at least one semester credit in summer school; the second semester may be recovered with this class. Enrollment is limited to 15 students. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**

## THE READING PROGRAM

The reading specialists serve as consultants for teachers and students, teach small group classes for specific strengthening of reading skills, and coach classroom teachers about best practices for literacy instruction within the general course offerings. Many students who no longer require daily reading instruction can receive support from the reading specialists and the Learning Center staff and strengthen their study skills. Some students may require more intensive support from the Special School District faculty if they have a reading disability. Any additional diagnostic assessment is directed through the reading specialists.

## ACADEMIC READING I & II

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9th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1/2 Elective credit per semester

Semester – 1 and/or 2

### **Prerequisite: Reading Specialist approval**

This course is designed for the student who wants to become a proficient reader. Small groups explore what it means to be a proficient reader in the 21st century. This exploration focuses on reading and analyzing challenging texts while supporting content class learning. The classes provide opportunities to examine and practice effective reading strategies including building a strong vocabulary; making inferences; asking questions; summarizing; synthesizing; and visualizing. Students learn how to accelerate their reading and develop successful reading strategies to support classroom learning. Research indicates the singular best way to improve reading proficiency is to provide students with time to read. This class provides that time in class. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**

# ENGLISH LEARNERS

## EL ENGLISH

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9th - 12th Grade

Credit – 1 English credit

Full Year (1/2 credit per semester)

### **Prerequisite: Identified English Learner**

This course is designed to provide identified English Learners (EL) with learning opportunities to develop English language skills in the areas of speaking, listening, reading, writing, grammar, and vocabulary. The curriculum is structured to meet the individual needs of English language students toward the goal of developing the level of English language proficiency necessary for academic success in high school and college. Learning experiences are designed for students based on their level of English language proficiency: Basic Beginner, High Beginner, Basic Intermediate, High Intermediate and Early-Advanced. Writing conferences with the teacher and peers are an integral part of the course. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**

## EL READING

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9th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1 elective credit

Full Year (1/2 credit per semester)

### **Prerequisite: Identified English Learners**

This course is similar in structure to the EL English course, with a more intensive focus on reading and writing. The course is designed to meet individual needs of English language students toward the goal of developing the level of English proficiency necessary for academic success in high school and college. The course focuses on the structural analysis of words, patterns of usage (grammar and syntax), vocabulary development, and comprehension strategies through guided reading and writing practice. Writing conferences with the teacher and peers are an integral part of the course. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**