



# English

The English Department program is a developmental one whereby students individually progress and develop their skills. All courses, strategies, and units are based on the Next Gen Learning or New York State English Language Arts Standards. Students will read, listen, write, and speak for information and understanding, literary response and expression, critical analysis and evaluation, and social interaction. Our students will become personally involved in a variety of language arts activities in a heterogeneous, supportive learning environment. All students must successfully pass the English Regents Exam to fulfill graduation requirements.

## COURSE OFFERINGS

<u>Course</u>	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Type of Exam</u>
English 9	1 unit	40 weeks	Local
English 9 Honors	1 unit	40 weeks	Local
English 10	1 unit	40 weeks	Local
English 10 Honors	1 unit	40 weeks	Local
English 11	1 unit	40 weeks	Regents
English 11 Honors	1 unit	40 weeks	Regents
English 4	1 unit	40 weeks	Local
English AP	1 unit	40 weeks	AP
English 12 Honors	1 unit	40 weeks	Hilbert
TV Broadcasting (West)	1 unit	40 weeks	Local
Communication Skills for 21st Century*	½ unit	20 weeks	Local
Wicked Works of Fiction*	½ unit	20 weeks	Local
Heroes, Legends and Lore*	½ unit	20 weeks	Local
Sports and Adventure Literature and Writing*	½ unit	20 weeks	Local
Creating Narrative Cinema (East)	1 unit	40 weeks	Local

\*Seniors can select two .5 unit alternatives in lieu of English IV or in addition to AP English in their senior year.

## English 9

Credit: 1 Unit                      Length: 40 weeks

This ninth grade English course is tailored to all ability levels and is designed to foster creativity in thinking and writing while further defining the fundamentals of language usage and imparting a sense of style in writing. It also intends to develop an awareness of the literary genre with emphasis on critical reading skills. Techniques of oral communication are introduced, and the importance of good listening habits are stressed. The final assessment is a district exam aligned with the Next Gen Learning Standards.

## English 9 Honors

Credit: 1 Unit                      Length: 40 weeks

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 8 Honors in Middle School and teacher recommendation.

This honors course continues the development of reading and writing skills with an emphasis on the development of literary analysis and evaluation skills. In addition to reading and writing assignments completed in class, students will be expected to regularly complete such assignments outside of class. Students will complete a summer reading project. The final assessment is a district exam aligned with the Next Gen Learning Standards.

## English 10

Credit: 1 Unit                      Length: 40 weeks

This tenth grade course continues to stress the development of reading, writing, speaking and listening with an emphasis on the studying of literary genres and the fundamentals of critical reading and writing. The final assessment is a district exam aligned with the Next Gen Learning Standards.

## English 10 Honors

Credit: 1 Unit                      Length: 40 weeks

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 9 Honors and/or teacher recommendation.

This course is designed for the academically talented student. It goes beyond the scope of the English 2 course to include more challenging and stimulating literature. The writing/research projects provide opportunities for higher levels of creativity and critical thought processes. Students will complete a summer reading project. The final assessment is a district exam aligned with the Next Gen Learning Standards.

## English 11

Credit: 1 Unit                      Length: 40 weeks

This course consists of a study of Literature and composition, vocabulary development, and an independent reading program. It fosters mastery in the areas of listening, reading, and writing for information and understanding, literary response, critical analysis and research. The final assessment is the English Regents Exam.

## English 11 Honors

Credit: 1 Unit Length: 40 weeks

Prerequisite: English 10 Honors and Teacher Recommendation

This course is a dual enrollment course, partnering with Hilbert College. Students will read, analyze and interpret a variety of challenging texts while being exposed to college-level research techniques. Students will develop their writing skills to improve their command of language, style, vocabulary, and sentence structure while writing argumentative, expository and analytical responses. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be eligible for 3 transferable college credit

hours. The final assessment is the English Regents exam in June.

Students may also register for course credit through Hilbert for a fee. This is optional, but would guarantee college credit if a passing grade is earned in the course.

#### English 4

Credit: 1 Unit Length: 40 weeks

This course focuses on helping students explore and advance their skills in thinking, vocabulary, comprehension, active discussion, research techniques, writing thesis papers and reading a wide gamut of literature. Emphasis in this course is placed on critical analysis and research. The teacher designs the final assessment.

#### English 12 Honors

Credit: 1 Unit Length: 40 weeks

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 11 Honors or English IV Enr and Teacher Recommendation

This course is a dual enrollment course, partnering with Hilbert College for EN 102 Writing Across the Humanities. Students will read a variety of types of literature including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama while they practice their analytical and interpretive skills as well as prepare for college level writing, evaluation, and research.

Students may also register for course credit through Hilbert for a fee. This is optional, but would guarantee college credit if a passing grade is earned in the course.

#### English AP

Credit: 1 Unit Length: 40 weeks

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English III CC or English IV Enr and Teacher Recommendation

This course is designed for college bound seniors. Students enrolled in this course may gain credit hours that may be applied to college programs at most colleges and

universities. Credit is based on successfully completing the Advanced Placement test in Literature and Composition, which is given in the spring. Credits are awarded by earning a 3, 4, or 5 on the exam. This course requires that students do independent reading.

Students are also required to write essays of analysis of the works that they have read.

Students will read poetry, plays, novels and short stories ranging from classical Greek drama to literature of the twentieth century. Students will complete a summer reading project. A dual credit option through Hilbert College is also available for EN102 Writing Across the Humanities.

Students will be required to sit for the AP exam in May. The AP exam fee is covered by the district. Students may also register for course credit through Hilbert for a fee. This is optional, but would guarantee college credit if a passing grade is earned in the course.

#### TV Broadcasting (West)

Credit: 1 Unit Length: 40 weeks

Prerequisite: Grade 12

TV Broadcasting is a project-based course in which students learn how to broadcast, write, produce, and anchor daily, live, televised programs for the school. This course is designed to prepare students who may be interested in pursuing

Communications or Journalism majors at the collegiate level with foundational knowledge in all phases of the broadcasting process, including: identifying, researching, and prioritizing news stories; writing detailed storyboards and scripting segments; staging shots and filming segments; editing videos in post-production; and more. Students will work independently, as well as in production groups, to develop news stories, feature stories, editorials, commercial advertising for school programs, and opening segments.

Students will also gain experience in front of the camera as reporters and on-air talents.

Note: Cannot be taken simultaneously with T.V. Productions

### Communication Skills for 21st Century

Credit: ½ Unit                      Length: 20 weeks

Prerequisite: Grade 12

This course is designed for students to infuse up and coming technology with interpersonal communication skills for a professional setting. Topics for exploration will include, but may not be limited to, public speaking mixed with presentation software programs such as: PowerPoint, Prezi, and Google; creating fiction/nonfiction narratives for podcasting; demonstrations using online broadcasting websites such as: YouTube; debating and persuasion using informative research. Throughout the course there will be an emphasis on developing a strong sense of professional public conduct to make students more attractive candidates for opportunities beyond high school.

### Wicked Works of Fiction

Credit: ½ Unit                      Length: 20 weeks

Prerequisite: Grade 12

Writers of dystopian, science fiction, fantasy, horror, mystery, and satirical fiction grapple with universal themes about human nature. Discussions of this literature will attempt to answer questions about the roots of evil, the individual and alienation, the desire for divine power, and the question of “other”. The course will examine these questions and look for answers about the nature of humanity.

### Heroes, Legends, and Lore

Credit: ½ Unit                      Length: 20 weeks

Prerequisite: Grade 12

Students will study the journey of the hero as he/she travels through new lands, battles mythological beasts and monsters and

rescues those in need along the way while analyzing themes of morality and good vs. evil. This course will study classic literature, contemporary literature and film. Legends, tales and mythology from a variety of cultures and regions will be examined and researched.

### Sports and Adventure Literature and Writing

Credit: ½ Unit                      Length: 20 weeks

Prerequisite: Grade 12

Students will examine the concepts of sports and adventure in literature and writing. Sport functions as its own literature, complete with distinctive language and characteristics. Students will investigate major themes in sport and adventure literature. Furthermore, students will examine how sports can act as a metaphor for the human condition and what they reveal about a culture’s values. Students will complete several tasks including, but not limited to: reading several full-length fiction and nonfiction texts, ranging from poetry to blogs to articles.

### Creating Narrative Cinema (East)

Credit: 1 Unit                      Length: 40 weeks

Prerequisite: Grade 12 and enrolled in Film and Multimedia Production

This course will focus on the creation of narrative cinema using basic narrative principles of English Language Arts (character, conflict, dialogue, point of view, and plot but with a screenwriting focus) in addition to incorporating film analysis to gain further insight into the visual, literary, aural, and performance aesthetics that comprise a work of cinema. By the end of the course, students will have acquired the knowledge and skills of reading film, developing personal meanings and interpretations of film, and written/visual

cinematic composition as it pertains to film production (creative writing, script writing, storyboarding, brainstorming, literary adaptation, etc.). Students will produce various scripts tackling a wide range of formats: public service announcements (PSAs), commercials, comic and dramatic sketches and skits, a short documentary film

and a short narrative film. This course is offered as part of the Film and Multimedia Senior Concentration and will culminate in a film festival highlighting student work. This course will satisfy the 4th unit of English.

### **Co-Curricular Connection:**

#### **The School Newspaper**

**Trojan Times – East Senior**

The award winning school newspapers are open to anyone interested in communicating in the print media. Students meet periodically to discuss the five issues printed during the year. From there, students work independently to produce the articles for publication.

By writing for school publications students develop pride and responsibility for their published pieces. The publications serve as purposeful learning experiences in which students forge friendships and create lasting memories. West Horizons and Trojan Times participate in regional conferences and competitions sponsored by colleges and conducted by professionals in the journalism field.

#### **The School Literary Magazine**

**Creative License – East Senior**

The literary magazine is a school-wide publication featuring poetry, short stories, photography, and artwork. Students plan, write, edit, and design the publication. Membership on the literary magazine staff is open to all students. The students meet weekly to produce one publication a year.

#### **English Honors Socratic Society (East)**

Requirements: Candidates for membership must have been in attendance at the school the equivalent of one semester prior to being considered. If special circumstances merit, the Faculty Advisory Council may waive the semester regulation.

Candidates must: complete the equivalent of two semesters of English, have achieved a minimum overall grade point average of a 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale), have achieved a minimum English grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) prior to induction as members.

Candidates achieving the minimal requirements may be invited to apply for membership in NEHS. The application process will require candidates to demonstrate their desire to be a member of NEHS. Application processes developed by Faculty Advisory Councils may include additional criteria (i.e., application essays, letters of recommendation, etc.) but all requirements must be based on demonstrated academic performance, interest in NEHS, and applicant character.



### **Project LIT**

This chapter of the nationwide organization brings together students throughout the West Seneca District through Community Service projects, discussion, and reading and writing. Students read and discuss diverse Young Adult Literature, volunteer as literacy ambassadors throughout elementary schools in the district, and build Little Free Libraries throughout the West Seneca Community to promote Literacy in a meaningful and concrete way. In taking part in Project LIT, students foster a greater sense of social awareness, and unite to develop and produce projects that benefit the community.