

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS DEPARTMENT

Four units of English are required for high school students to graduate in New York State. Our program is designed to foster the reading, writing, listening, speaking, language, and thinking skills necessary to be college and career ready. Students will be required to read, analyze and synthesize across literary and informational texts, write for multiple audiences, tasks, and purposes, listen and speak in collaborative discussions with their peers, and demonstrate a solid command of the English language.

English classes are selected with students according to reading and writing skill level, as determined by the English teacher, state assessments, and student performance. Honors/IB classes will include students who successfully complete the application process and meet the established criteria. Students that demonstrate a need for additional assistance with English skills will receive these services through supplemental instruction.

All 11th grade students are required by New York State to take the Common Core English Regents Examination; a student must pass this exam in order to earn a diploma in New York State.

### ENGLISH 9: PRE-IB

**HONORS (1 CREDIT)**

This course is an advanced study of reading, writing, and critical thinking. Many styles of discussion and analysis are used as students build independence in their critical thinking about literary forms. Persuasive writing and literary analysis are emphasized. Students will read a variety of literary and non-fiction texts. Students are expected to show a high level of independence and motivation in this honors class.

### ENGLISH 9

**(1 CREDIT)**

This course focuses on reading, writing, and critical thinking. Students will participate in a variety of class activities that help build independence and proficiency in reading at grade level and developing analytical skills. Persuasive writing

and literary analysis are a focus of this course. Students will read a variety of literary and non-fiction texts.

### ENGLISH 10: PRE-IB

**HONORS (1 CREDIT)**

This course is an advanced study of how history is reflected in literature and how our understanding of history is increased through reading. Many styles of classroom discussion are utilized as students develop their critical thinking and analytical skills. Students will be introduced to IB expectations and will complete complex writing tasks independently. Students are expected to show a high level of independence and motivation in this honors class.

### ENGLISH 10

**(1 CREDIT)**

This course is a study of how history is reflected in literature and how our understanding of history is increased through reading. Students will participate in many class activities that help build independence and proficiency in reading at grade level and developing analytical skills. Informative writing, persuasive writing, and literary analysis are a focus of this course.

### ENGLISH 11: HONORS

**HONORS (1 CREDIT)**

This advanced course is a study of how the American experience, both past and present, are reflected in American literature. Students will participate in a variety of reading activities to develop their critical thinking and writing skills. Three forms of writing are emphasized –

persuasive, informative, and narrative. Students will prepare for the Comprehensive English exam given in June. This course is for students preparing for UHS classes and college-level work, and students should show a high level of independence and motivation in this class.

### ENGLISH 11

**(1 CREDIT)**

This course is a study of how the American experience is reflected in American literature. Students will continue to hone their writing and critical thinking skills through literary and non-fiction texts. The three major forms of writing will be studied this year: persuasive, informative, and narrative. A significant amount of time will be spent preparing for the Comprehensive English exam given in June. In preparation for higher-level reading, students will learn reading strategies for complex texts.



### ENGLISH 11: IB

(1 CREDIT)

Open to grade 11.

**Prerequisites:** Average of an 85 or better in the first three quarters of English 10, attendance rate of 85% or better, must fit the IB Learner Profile showing interest in literature, motivation and a desire to learn and must complete the IB Summer Reading Assignment.

This rigorous and challenging course is the first half of the two-year IB course – English A: Literature. This course promotes an appreciation of literature and knowledge of other cultures and societies. Students will complete Parts One and Four of the IB course curriculum. Part I is a study of translated works; this may include titles such as *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*, *A Thousand Cranes*, *A Doll's House*, or *The Sound of Waves*. Students will complete a major literary analysis at the conclusion of this unit. Part Four includes such titles as *Crime and Punishment*, *Macbeth*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, and *Jane Eyre*. Students will develop their critical reading skills and increase their expertise in literary analysis. Students taking this course should be self-motivated and have a strong interest in literature.

### ENGLISH 12: IB

(1 CREDIT)

Open to grade 12.

**Prerequisites:** Average of an 80 or better in the first three quarters of English 11IB, attendance rate of 85% or better, must fit the IB Learner Profile showing interest in literature, motivation and a desire to learn and must complete the IB Summer Reading Assignment.

This second year of the IB course continues to promote an appreciation of literature and knowledge of other cultures and societies. Students will complete Parts Two and Three of the IB course curriculum and will read a variety of styles and literary genres including: short story and the novel, poetry, memoir and Shakespeare. Oral and written examinations are used to assess students' individual language skills, their ability to critically analyze and comment upon familiar and unfamiliar texts, and their ability to express a personal and independent response to literature. This course prepares students for the IB English exam administered in May and fulfills the Group 1 Language requirement for the IB Diploma or Certificate.

### HEROES AND LEGENDS ENGLISH 12

(.5 CREDIT)

This course surveys various heroes and legends of literature. Students will analyze different adaptations of the hero story throughout history by studying heroes and legends such as Beowulf, Greek mythology, Thor, Joan of Arc, Davy Crocket, Mulan, Arthurian legends, Mansa Musa, and Japanese Samurai warriors. The study may also include contemporary works such as *The Watchmen* and *Iron Man*. Students will analyze and critique how these characters are developed through different forms such as text, film, music, and art.

### HORROR FICTION AND FILM ENGLISH 12

(.5 CREDIT)

Horror fiction and film uses popular mythology to explore the dark, squalid areas of popular culture. This semester long course examines society's dreams and the myths it creates through horror fiction and film. Specifically, this course will explore the relationship of horror fiction and film and the underlying issues of gender, race, class, ethnicity, and the power within. Several films will be viewed and related works of horror fiction

are required reading. The goal of this course will be to look beneath the surface of the films and texts in order to develop a theory of the horror genre as it relates to modern culture.

### LITERATURE OF THE COMPLEX MIND - ENGLISH 12

(.5 CREDIT)

This course studies literature and film that focus on characters who struggle with mental illness and cognitive disorders. Through this study, students will explore the complexity of the human mind, especially as it pertains to psychological and/or mental disorders such as schizophrenia, depression, borderline personality disorder, and autism spectrum disorder. Students will also study contemporary issues surrounding mental health issues. Texts may include *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Flowers for Algernon*, *The Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*, as well as options for an independent read.



**SPORTS COMPOSITION AND LITERATURE ENGLISH 12**

**(.5 CREDIT)**

This course is designed to use composition and literature – fiction, poetry, essays, biographies, journalism, and films – to illuminate and refine our understanding of the impact of sports on our personal and social lives. Some of the issues to be examined are: the nature of sport itself, the role of sports in defining values, the effects of competition, and racism/sexism in sports. Students will read a nonfiction novel that has become a popular movie and analyze the different ways that authors and directors create intense sensations that accompany sporting events. Students will also investigate sports journalism, surveying different journalists and creating their own journalistic piece based on a current sporting event that they attend. Students will research and write a brief report of controversial topics in sports. Many of the reading selections will be guided by the interests of the students and will be tailored to the needs of the class. Students will be expected to conduct critical analysis concerning the personal and professional influence of sports.

**ENGLISH 12: UHS ADVANCED COLLEGE PREP**

**6 UHS CREDITS, SCCC (ENG 123, 124) (1 CREDIT)**

**Prerequisite: 80 or higher on Comprehensive English exam.**

This challenging, University in the High School course is for students who want a rigorous course with an opportunity to earn 6 college credits. In the first semester, students will participate in an intensive writing course and will demonstrate mastery in utilizing the writing process and producing cohesive and effective essays. During the second semester, students critically analyze literature, exploring such issues as how literature reflects the human experience and writer’s craft. Students will participate in a variety of classroom activities to develop their understanding of literary analysis and foster their communication skills.

**ENGLISH 12: FINE ARTS SEMINAR**

**(2 CREDITS - 1 CREDIT ENGLISH 12 AND 1 CREDIT FINE ARTS)**

**Open to SSFA seniors only. Prerequisite: Successful completion of the Comprehensive English Regents exam.**

This course is designed for the Fine Arts majors in visual art, music, theater, dance, or media arts who wish to study topics common to all fine arts disciplines. The class may include researching, making class presentations, developing journaling skills, creative problem solving, commenting on other artist’s work, and personal reflections. Reading will include fiction and non-fiction works that reflect artistic experiences. Collaboration between students is a key component of this course. This course is ideal for the motivated and creative student who wishes to pursue the fine arts in college.

**JOURNALISM**

**(1 OR 2 CREDITS)**

This course is a survey of journalism and will include a historical perspective of news as well as contemporary issues in journalism. Students will focus on various aspects of newspaper production, including copy writing, advertising, layout design, ethics, and feature writing. Students will be responsible for the production of the school’s newspaper, The Patriot, and may be expected to make an after-school commitment.

**HEALTH**

**HEALTH**

**(1/2 CREDIT)**

**Open to grades 10,11, and 12. There are no prerequisites.**

All students must successfully pass Health Education, as it is a State mandated program. Health Education is a 20-week course that focuses on seven skill areas. The skills include self-management, communication, decision-making, planning and goal setting, stress management, relationship management and advocacy. These skills when mastered, enable individuals to enhance personal, family and community health and safety. The following content areas are woven throughout the curriculum: HIV/AIDS, tobacco, alcohol and other drugs, nutrition, disease, safety and first aid, and human development.