

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)

The English Language Arts program provides a variety of course offerings in literature, media, writing, and speaking. Each student is required to pass 12 trimester credits of English Language Arts by completing one English Language Arts course each trimester of grades 9, 10, 11, and 12. Students may choose to take additional English Language Arts classes for elective credit during their sophomore, junior, and senior year.

Required English Language Arts Courses

NINTH GRADE	TENTH GRADE
<p><i>All year</i> English 9 or Honors English 9</p>	<p><i>One trimester of each</i> Literature 10 or Honors Literature 10 Composition 10 or Honors Composition 10 Speech Dynamics or Honors Speech Dynamics</p>
ELEVENTH GRADE	TWELFTH GRADE
<p><i>All Year</i> English 11 or AP® Language & Composition</p>	<p><i>One trimester of each</i> English Language Arts Elective(s) (See list below) or <i>All year</i> AP® Literature & Composition</p>

English Language Arts Electives

* Although only 3 Electives are required for graduation, students are welcome to take additional classes for elective credit.

Literature Electives	Communications Electives	Writing Electives
<p>Best Selling Novels Mythology Science Fiction Topics in Literature-Mystery</p>	<p>Acting College in the Schools: Public Speaking EaglEye: Broadcast Journalism Interpersonal Communications Media Studies Narratives & Literacy in Gaming</p>	<p>College in the Schools: Writing Studio Creative Writing SAU-Comp Research Paper Writing for STEM Disciplines Journalism</p>

In registering for next year's English Language Arts classes, students are encouraged to seek the advice of their current English Language Arts teacher. It is strongly recommended that the student balance his/her electives taking some writing, some literature, and some speaking courses within the high school years. Because some colleges and universities are not accepting certain English Language Arts courses, it is very important that students and parents consult with the student's prospective school.

English 9 F-2000, W-2001, S-2002

Grade: 9

The goals of English 9 are to establish a foundation of literary concepts and to review and refine composition, communication, and grammar skills. The language skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening are strengthened through interdisciplinary, real-life applications. Units include: short story, poetry, novels, drama, various types of composition, public speaking, the research process, vocabulary enrichment, and listening skills.

Honors English 9 F-2003, W-2004, S-2005

Grade: 9

The Honors English 9 course will examine the same content areas as the English 9 course. However, major emphasis will be placed on the in-depth study of literary techniques, devices, and their practical application. In addition, a strong, continuing emphasis will be placed on writing, abstract thinking, analysis, and critical reading. The Honors program offers a more challenging curriculum in both volume and depth for the highly motivated student.

Academic Literacy 9 F-2008, W-2009, S-2010**Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation**

The purpose of this course is to offer 9th grade students the opportunity to develop their academic literacy skills in order to better prepare them for success in school. In addition to learning about the process and mechanics of reading (vocabulary, comprehension, and fluency), the class will foster student engagement and inquiry through independent reading and cooperative learning activities. Students will not register for this class. Students will be placed in this class if warranted. **This course has not been approved by the NCAA Clearinghouse.**

Speech Dynamics 2015

Grades: 10-11-12

Prerequisite: None

In this public speaking class, students will prepare and deliver several informative and persuasive speeches for an audience. Course content will provide a review of fundamental speech preparation methods and will then focus on research, delivery, use of visual aids, and persuasion.

Honors Speech Dynamics 2137

Grades: 10-11-12

Prerequisite: None

The ability to speak to groups is vital for academic, business, and community life. This course is designed for students who are generally comfortable with the basics of speaking and would like to develop informative and persuasive speaking skills at an accelerated rate and to a more advanced level.

Composition 10 2019

Grades: 10-11-12

Prerequisite: None

Students in this course will develop writing abilities necessary for clear, effective written communication. Each student will work on his/her writing process including prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing. Writing styles include narrative, persuasive and research.

Honors Composition 10 2151

Grades: 10-11-12

Prerequisite: None

Honors Composition emphasizes the writing styles used in upper level English Language Arts classes, including narrative, persuasive and research. This class is designed for students who are prepared for a rigorous writing experience.

Literature 10 2023

Grades: 10-11-12

Prerequisite: None

Students learn to read more closely and get more out of their reading through inquiry units of study. Emphasis is on analysis of text. Responsive writing is incorporated into each unit.

Honors Literature 10 2027

Grades: 10-11-12

Prerequisite: None

This advanced course examines literature in all its forms. The course emphasizes close reading of literature, and students should be strong readers who are ready for challenging assignments. Responsive writing is incorporated into each unit.

English 11 F-2040, W-2041, S-2042

Grade: 11

English 11 is a year-long course designed to develop the skills students need to become college and career ready. The class concentrates on reading critically, writing clearly for a variety of audiences and purposes, speaking and listening. Students will read classic and contemporary texts as well as non-fiction. They will engage in small and large group discussions as well as develop and present more formal multimedia presentations. Additionally, students will conduct research and present findings while maintaining appropriate citation style. This class adheres to the Minnesota State Language Arts Standards for Grades 11-12.

Reading Enhancement 2030

Grade: 10

Prerequisite: **Teacher Recommendation** and Parent Conference

This course is intended for those students who have demonstrated a need to improve their reading ability and desire to do so. The course will focus on fluency and vocabulary development, study skills, comprehension strategies, and reading for enjoyment. This course is offered for an English Language Arts elective credit. **This course has not been approved by the NCAA Clearinghouse.**

Best Selling Novels 2047

Grades: 11-12

Prerequisite: None

This is a course where students will read high interest fiction and non-fiction similar to what readers find on *The New York Times* bestseller list. Since most of the reading will be done during class time, students must be independent readers willing to read silently for 45-minute blocks. Students are evaluated through reading reflections, group discussion and individual projects. An average high school reading ability is required.

Mythology 2052

Grades: 10-11-12

Prerequisite: None

This course emphasizes the classical mythology of Greece through the study of its poetry, prose, and drama. The creation myths, the gods, the heroes, and the Trojan War are examined. Comparisons are made with other mythologies such as Native American, Asian, Norse, and Egyptian. This class is an excellent elective for the college-bound student, as well as those who are vocationally oriented.

Topics in Literature: 2177

Grades 11-12

Prerequisite: None

This class will explore the genre of **MYSTERY** by investigating texts from the past and present. Mystery may include the subgenres of crime, thriller, or horror. Students can expect to read historical and contemporary, American and

world short stories and novels. The instructor and students will work together to select a wide range of suitable texts in this genre. Students should expect to respond to texts through discussion, written assignments and/or projects.

Science Fiction 2056

Grades: 11-12

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed for the student who already has a special interest in the area of science fiction or who wants to learn more about it. Short stories and novels, as well as nonfiction articles about the future, are the required readings.

College in the Schools – Writing Studio 2068

Grade: 11-12

Prerequisite: Students should have a GPA of 3.0 or better

This course introduces general writing strategies encountered at the college level. Through frequent practice and feedback, students will learn to see writing as a tool for learning and a vehicle for expression of ideas and informed views. Students will also learn a working vocabulary for discussing writing. Typical assignments will include informal writing derived from personal experience, response to readings, analysis and evaluation of sources on the web and in print, and formal papers that increasingly make use of sources, as well as close reading of texts. The course emphasizes the active practice of writing, from gathering ideas for a paper, through the drafting of papers, to careful editing.

Narratives and Literacy in Gaming 2124

Grades: 10-12

Prerequisite: None

Narratives and Literacy in Gaming will focus on the playing, analysis, and creation of video games. Students will be exposed to a number of games and genres, including both commercially popular games and some that have an educational focus. Additionally, students will learn how to critique games using a number of analytical tools, including an evaluation of what the game might be saying about race, class, and gender. Finally, the class will give students the opportunity to design an idea for their own game. **This course has not been approved by the NCAA Clearinghouse.**

Interpersonal Communication 2090

Grades: 11-12

Prerequisite: Speech Dynamics

Interpersonal communication centers upon the communication skills key to maintaining successful, personal relationships. Whether communication involves parent-child, teacher-student, or friend-friend relationships, knowing how to deal with problems, share ideas, carry on conversations, and work well with others is central to life. Special units, including listening skills, gender differences in communication, and problem-solving help students to deal with interpersonal relationships more effectively. **This course has not been approved by the NCAA Clearinghouse.**

Media Studies 2081

Grades: 11-12

Prerequisite: None

This course is the study of mass and multi-media (magazines, newspapers, radio, film, television, and computer-based electronic media) and their influence upon our lives. Media Studies gives the student the opportunity to critically evaluate the forms of communication that control as well as reflect the beliefs, values, and actions of the public. Through study of various media and their methods, the ability to become discerning consumers is developed. This course will help provide students with critical skills to become objective and independent thinkers. Evaluation will be through written assignments and creative projects. **This course has not been approved by the NCAA Clearinghouse.**

Writing for STEM Disciplines 2104

Grades: 11-12

Prerequisite: Composition 10

Writing for STEM Disciplines is designed for all students who want to improve their ability to write clearly and effectively for the modern STEM fields. Units covered will include such things as: Business and Electronic Communications; Journals, Manuals, and Policy Development; Employment and Personnel Evaluation; and Technical Writing with graph and chart integration.

Research Paper 2116

Grade: 12

Prerequisite: English 11 or AP® Language

This course, strongly recommended for all college-bound students, will demonstrate how to investigate a topic and how to construct a research paper. All areas of the research paper will be covered from choosing a topic to completing the final paper. Students will also create a PowerPoint presentation. This course is for 12th grade students only.

Creative Writing 2120

Grades: 11-12

Prerequisite: None

This writing course is for students with an interest in the creative writing process and in applying their own imaginations to the genres of fiction, nonfiction and poetry. Students will develop skills in descriptive and sensory writing, as well as experiment in a variety of creative writing formats. This course requires a commitment to writing and a willingness to use one's creativity.

College in the Schools: Public Speaking 2140

Grades: 11-12

Prerequisite: B+ or above in Speech Dynamics or teacher recommendation

This is a college course open to students in the top 50% of their class. This course is performance based with writing and research skills as a major component. As college students, the class members will be held to the same rigor found in an introductory college course in public speaking. The students will demonstrate skills in impromptu speaking, informative speaking, and persuasive speaking. The rules and expectations of the University of Minnesota govern this course. This College in the Schools: Public Speaking course will provide the opportunity for students to engage in a college experience while remaining at Apple Valley High School. Students who complete the course successfully earn three semester credits from the University of Minnesota.

Journalism 2125

Grades: 10-11-12

Prerequisite: Composition 10 or Honors Composition 10

Print media is slowly becoming an anomaly in our highly technical, electro-media world. This course addresses the evolution of the news media from its roots in print journalism to the newest hybrid forms of electronic mass media. Topics to be addressed include print journalism, mass media ethics, the convergence of print and electronic media, and the social implications of media convergence. This is not a survey course. Students will have the opportunity to write and create various forms of print and electronic media.

SAU-Comp 2157

Grade 10-11-12

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation

This course is intended for those students who have demonstrated a need to improve their writing skills. Students should not register for this course, but will be placed into the course if warranted. **This course has not been approved by the NCAA Clearinghouse.**

Advanced Placement® Language and Composition F-2161, W-2162, S-2163

Grade: 11

Prerequisite: None

Advanced Placement® Language and Composition is a course designed to train students to become skilled readers of prose written in a variety of historical periods, academic disciplines, and rhetorical contexts. The course will also give students the practice and helpful criticism necessary to become flexible writers who can compose in a variety of

modes for a variety of purposes. The course assumes that students have already developed a command of standard English grammar and emphasizes expository, analytical, and argumentative essays, all of which should contribute to making participants more mature thinkers and writers. The course will prepare students for the optional Advanced Placement® Exam in Language and Composition. Students taking the course must register for all three trimesters.

Advanced Placement® Literature and Composition F-2076, W-2078, S-2080

Grade: 12

Prerequisite: None

Advanced Placement® Literature and Composition is a course designed for students with special interest and ability in reading, analyzing, and writing about literature. Students will study selected poems, short stories, plays, and novels in depth. Emphasis will be placed on developing the critical reading, thinking, and writing skills used in college and on the Advanced Placement® Exam in Literature and Composition. Students will be expected to discuss the selected works, write critical essays, and complete a research paper. Students taking this course must register for all three trimesters.

EagleEye 1 F-2174, W-2175, S-2176

Grades: 10-11-12

Prerequisite: Journalism or Media Studies recommended. If numbers require, there may be an application process. This class will create broadcast productions to be televised throughout AVHS. Students will write news stories, edit copy, and deliver for the camera. Students will gain technical skills needed to create a quality program. This class receives one English Language Arts credit per trimester. **This course has not been approved by the NCAA Clearinghouse.**

Academic Literacy 11/12 (Reading) F-2011, W-2012

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation

The purpose of this course is to offer 11th and 12th grade students the chance to develop academic literacy skills to better prepare them for success in school. In addition to learning about the process and mechanics of reading (vocabulary, comprehension, and fluency), the class will foster student engagement and inquiry through independent reading and cooperative learning activities. Students will not register for this class. Students will be placed in this class if warranted. **This course has not been approved by the NCAA Clearinghouse.**

Acting 2063

Grades: 10-11-12

Prerequisite: None

Acting will offer students an opportunity to develop their skills in acting and appreciation of live theater. This course will introduce the basic skills of live theatre in an activity-based, creativity-driven environment. As an English Language Arts elective, the most emphasized skills are character development, script analysis, vocal and physical character development, concentration, memorization techniques, performance critiquing, and stage confidence. Within this performance-oriented class, students will enhance performance/speaking skills – study, develop, and perform scenes from a variety of plays, write character development analysis, and – of course – work to develop their voices for the stage. This course satisfies one English Language Arts elective credit, and meets one "Minnesota Arts Standard" requirement. **This course has not been approved by the NCAA Clearinghouse.**