

## RAHS ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS



*“Write to be understood, speak to be heard,  
read to grow...” Lawrence Clark Powell*

“The reading and writing work I did at RAHS set the stage for exploring and expressing ideas through written work. This skill has been essential for communication, envisioning and articulating ideas for social change, and for continually redefining my ideas. Early exposure to strong English classes allowed me to seek inspiration from the life work of others at times when my thoughts might otherwise have stagnated.”

**Rhodes Scholar and RAHS graduate  
Priya Sury**

## Core Curriculum

RAHS English Department offers a variety of ways for students to fulfill their required 2 credits each year.

### Most students choose:

English 9 AB  
English 10 AB  
11<sup>th</sup> grade  
    Themes in American Lit + Advanced Composition  
12<sup>th</sup> grade – one of these options  
    Literature & Myth + Elective  
    Critical Reading + Elective  
    Memoir + Elective

### Advanced students choose:

Pre AP English 9 AB  
Pre AP English 10 AB  
AP American Language and Composition  
12<sup>th</sup> grade – one of these options  
    AP Literature and Composition Humanities  
    CIS Literature + Elective

### Emerging Language Learners:

English 9 AB or Sheltered Content 9 AB  
English 10 AB or Sheltered Content 10 AB  
11<sup>th</sup> grade – one of these options  
    American Short Stories & Composition  
    Sheltered Content 11  
Legends and Short Stories + Elective  
English 12: Practical Applications

Each year, students may opt into or out of the different levels. There are no prerequisites for any of the PreAP or AP classes.

## Department Fun Facts

12 of 14 teachers hold advanced degrees

3 National Board Certified Teachers

Teacher Licensed in Theater

1 Lions Club Real Award Winner

1 former Professional Film Critic

2 former *Citypages* writers

3 Award winning Speech and  
Debate Coaches

Teachers who have taught in  
China, Panama, and Zambia

1 Fulbright Teacher Scholar

2010 MN Teacher of the Year Semi-finalist

2012 MN Teacher of the Year Finalist

2017 MN Teacher of the Year Finalist

2010 Presidential Scholar  
Recognized Teacher

National Endowment for the Humanities  
Summer Study Fellowship winner

1 Published Poet

1 Consultant for MN Writing Project

3 Rotary Exchange teachers to Sri Lanka

## Elective Classes

The RAHS English department has a wide variety of elective opportunities.

### Writing

Creative Writing

Composition

Advanced Composition

Journalism

### Reading

Memoir

Critical Reading

Literature and Mythology

Dramatic Literature

### Speaking/Acting

Drama Workshop I and II

Speech in Performance

Public Speaking

### Media/Film

Art of Film

Media Studies

Video Production

Yearbook

## Our Summer Reading Program!

RAHS English summer reading program includes ALL students in each grade.

A study 2006 of ACT results showed that what differentiates students who are ready for college from those who are not is an ability to comprehend sophisticated texts that may have several layers of meaning.

We encourage **everyone** to read at least two books from the list of Literary Merit Badges.

While Literary Merit Badges are a great way to focus your reading over the summer, they can be completed at any time during the year.

Complete five badges by May 1 and earn an academic letter in Literary Society! Direct any questions or completed work to Ms. Dahlin in B217.

### HOW IT WORKS:

**ALL RAHS STUDENTS need to pick at least two books** from the eighteen possible categories of merit badges and complete STEP 1 of each badge. Fill out a badge application that has your name and first hour teacher and turn this work in to your English teacher during the first week of school OR drop it off in room B217. All students who successfully complete the work in Step 1 for a badge will receive a 1 inch, color button to celebrate their achievement.

Students can collect all the buttons by the time they graduate!

### Earn an Academic Letter in Literary Society!

Students who want to start earning an academic letter from the Literary Society, complete BOTH STEPS 1 and 2 for the two badges they have chosen.

Students will meet with the sponsor teacher for each badge to have a short conversation about the work they have done. When sponsoring teachers have signed off on the work for all five badges, they will create either a digital or hardcopy display for the library.

When these requirements have been met, students will have earned an Academic Letter – a great addition to any college transcript! Students can pursue a letter all four years at RAHS.

### Merit Badge topics include:

Ancient Texts, Caribbean, Central American and South American Literature, Food, Transcendentalism, Travel, Comedy, Modern Japanese Literature, Music, Fantasy and Science Fiction, Drama, Poetry, Politics, Russian Literature, Social Justice, Art, and more!

See complete instructions and badge list at [www.isd623.org/rahs](http://www.isd623.org/rahs) under Literary Merit Badge Section.