

# English & Literature

## English

*Year-long course required of 7th and 8th grade students, offered on three levels: concepts, standard, and accelerated.*

This course develops students' writing and speaking skills through the practice of conventions of communication: grammar, usage, mechanics, and spelling. Areas of emphasis at each level are determined by students' strengths and needs, and writing skills are applied across the curriculum. Students are encouraged to read independently and develop life-long reading habits.

7th Grade: Emphasis is placed on the introduction to academic and analytical writing and the conventions of communication to improve writing that informs, persuades and communicates effectively. Students also practice organization skills through speaking and research opportunities.

8th Grade: Emphasis is placed on further development of speaking skills with multiple opportunities for students to organize, practice, and present. A formal presentation is required each quarter. Students also focus on researching content, analyzing information, and the organization of writing.

## Literature

*Year-long course required of 7th and 8th graders, offered on three levels: concepts, standard, and accelerated.*

This course develops comprehension skills and the ability to interpret and evaluate literature through various genres. Students practice responding to literature through discussion and writing. Additional emphasis is placed on strengthening vocabulary and analyzing elements of a story.

7th Grade: Emphasis is placed on adolescent literature.

8th Grade: The course includes mythology and poetry.

Students in both grades are also encouraged to read independently and develop life-long reading habits.