Inspiring Excellence
Upper Merion Area School District
435 Crossfield Road • King of Prussia, PA 19406 • 610-205-6400 • Fax 610-205-6433 • www.umasd.org

Upper Merion Area School District
Curriculum Information for Parents and Community

English Department

The secondary English department in Upper Merion aims to foster a love of critically reading a wide range of texts and to develop smooth and clear writing skills in our students. Digital text, visuals, and video are integrated into our English course of studies.

Ninth Grade
In ninth-grade English, students establish a foundation for literary analysis in reading, conversation, and writing. The themes for this course are: Self-Discovery, The Choices We Make, Resilience in the Face of Adversity, and Navigating Relationships. *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros, *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare, and *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry, and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* by Mark Haddon are among the core texts. A wide selection of poetry, short stories, literary nonfiction, non-literary nonfiction, and diverse media comprise the content of this ninth-grade English course. Upper Merion's high school English courses are built on the concepts of Kittle and Gallagher's *180 Days* model with core texts, book clubs, and independent reading occurring across the school year.

Tenth Grade
The tenth-grade English course begins by exploring the concept of self-discovery and coming-of-age stories. *Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger is such an example. Next, students investigate how race, economics, and class can affect an individual's identity. *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry is an example of literature that explores this theme. Revenge, jealousy, and manipulation frame another unit. *Othello* by William Shakespeare is a featured work in this unit. Mental health and mental disabilities in literature, such as in Hadden's *The Curious Incident of a Dog in the Night Time*, make a fourth theme in this course. Independent readings comprise the balance of our English 10 course. The 10th grade Honors English course examines literature through historic movements.
Upper Merion's high school English courses are built on the concepts of Kittle and Gallagher's *180 Days* model with core texts, book clubs, and independent reading occurring across the school year. In the spring of Tenth Grade, students take the Keystone Literature exam.

Eleventh Grade
English 11 provides a choice for a College Prep or an Advanced Placement level course. The CP course centers around American Literature, from its early classical traditions to the diverse styles of contemporary works. Skills emphasized in the CP course are reading competency, critical writing, public speaking, and recognizing stereotypes and bias. The AP course is aligned with the College Board's English Language and Composition course, in which students cultivate their understanding of writing and rhetorical arguments. Extensive reading and literary analysis and regular writing assignments regarding topics like rhetorical situation, claims and evidence, reasoning and organization, and style form the basis of the AP course. Students taking the AP course can take the course for dual enrollment through Montgomery County Community College and earn 3 college credits.

Upper Merion Area School District is an equal opportunity educational institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious affiliation, national origin, sex, age, marital status or non-relevant handicaps and disabilities in its activities, programs or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title IX and Section 504. The district's commitment to nondiscrimination extends to students, employees, prospective employees and the community. For information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures or for information regarding services, activities and facilities that are accessible to and useable by handicapped persons, contact Manager of Human Resources, Upper Merion Area School District, 435 Crossfield Road, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, 19406, (610) 205-6405.

Upper Merion's high school English courses are built on the concepts of Kittle and Gallagher's *180 Days* model with core texts, book clubs, and independent reading occurring across the school year. All Eleventh Grade students complete a Junior Research Project with the guidance of their English teacher.

Twelfth Grade

Seniors have the opportunity to take College Prep English 12 or Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition. The CP course serves as a culminating investigation into classical pieces and how their universality influences modern writers. Introductory college-level Socratic seminars and writing assignments are designed to hone skills with the continued practice of style and grammar. AP Literature is a course in understanding and evaluating works of fiction, poetry, and drama from various periods and cultures. Students read literary works and write essays to explain and analyze these works. Students taking the AP course can take the course for dual enrollment through Montgomery County Community College and earn 3 college credits.

Upper Merion's high school English courses are built on the concepts of Kittle and Gallagher's *180 Days* model with core texts, book clubs, and independent reading across the school year. Our English teachers support students in completing their Senior Graduation Projects.

Students need successful completion of 4 years of high school English in order to meet graduation requirements.

To see our full Program of Studies, look here:
https://hs.umasd.org/info/school-publications/program-of-studies

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