ENGLISH COMMUNICATION ARTS & READING

Program Description
The English Communication Arts Program provides opportunities for all students to become responsible, self-motivated, productive citizens as well as lifelong learners and communicators. As a result of their participation in the English Communication Arts Program, students develop verbal and nonverbal communication skills which include problem-solving, critical thinking, reading, writing, speaking, listening, research, and social skills. Students express thoughts and feelings, work cooperatively, and integrate technology in order to function effectively in life. Students explore the aesthetic value and multi-cultural diversity as reflected in language and literature. This program follows the professional standards and guidelines as established by colleges and universities, the State Goals for Learning, the International Reading Association, and the National Council of Teachers of English.

Program Goals
1. Know how to read, comprehend, interpret, analyze, evaluate, and use a variety of written materials.
2. Know how to listen critically and analytically.
3. Know how to write standard English in a grammatical, well-organized and coherent manner for a variety of purposes.
4. Know how to use spoken language in formal and informal situations to communicate effectively.
5. Understand and appreciate the various forms of fiction and nonfiction representative of different cultures, eras, and ideas.
6. Know how to locate, access, and process information through technology to enable lifelong learning.
7. Explore how language evolves and functions.
8. Prepare for future learning, which includes the work environment.

Course Selection
Advanced Composition & Research: British Literature (Advanced Composition Research - British Literature)
Advanced Composition & Research: Creative Writing (Advanced Composition Research – Creative Writing)
Advanced Composition & Research: Multicultural Literature (Advanced Composition Research – Multicultural Literature)
Advanced Composition & Research: Shakespeare (Advanced Composition Research – Shakespeare)
Advanced Composition & Research: World Humanities (Advanced Composition Research – World Humanities)
AP English III
AP English IV
English I (Honors)
English I
English II (Honors)
English II
English III
High School Reading
Journalism
Reading Foundations
Reading Seminar
Sophomore Reading
Yearbook

R-0063-ADVANCED COMPOSITION AND RESEARCH FOR 12 1/2 UNIT All seniors will take this course first semester. This course focuses on research skills essential for students entering the workplace or post-secondary studies. It is designed to develop stylistic maturity in writing by using a wide-ranging vocabulary, a variety of sentence structures, logical organization, etc. This course allows students to become more critical readers, thinkers, and writers as they become intellectually engaged. Students will learn how to incorporate research into their writing for a variety of purposes. This course fulfills one-half unit of required English IV credit.

R-0068-ADVANCED COMPOSITION & RESEARCH: BRITISH LITERATURE FOR 12 1/2 UNIT Seniors may choose this course for second semester. This is an in-depth course that traces the literary and historical trends of British Literature. Students will study the development of British Literature from the earliest Anglo-Saxon period through modern works. This course is designed for college-bound and/or career-oriented students who perform at grade level in
their reading and language arts skills. Integrating reading, writing, literature, speaking, listening, vocabulary, library, and critical-thinking skills, students will read and write for a variety of purposes. A formal research project is required. This course fulfills one-half unit of required English IV credit.

R-0070- ADVANCED COMPOSITION & RESEARCH: CREATIVE WRITING FOR 12 1/2 UNIT  Seniors may choose this course for second semester. Creative Writing is an introduction to the art of writing prose, poetry, and drama. The three steps of writing process (prewriting, writing, and revising) are emphasized in students’ personal creations as they learn to write as professional authors do. Students in this class will be given challenging assignments to generate original works in a variety of genres. Classroom activities include reading great works, analyzing fiction and poetry, completing writing exercises, journaling, revising original works, and editing and preparing work for publication. All students will be expected to participate in class workshops. Each student will prepare a portfolio of original work for the end of each semester. STUDENTS WILL BE EXPECTED TO WRITE EVERY SINGLE DAY! This course fulfills one-half unit of required English IV credit.

R-0072- ADVANCED COMPOSITION & RESEARCH: SHAKESPEARE FOR 12 1/2 UNIT  Seniors may choose this course for second semester. This course will examine William Shakespeare as both a dramatist and poet. Students will be introduced to a range of Shakespeare’s comedies, tragedies, histories, and sonnets. The timeless, universal appeal of these works will be studied within the literary, political, and theatrical context of both the modern and Renaissance cultures. This course is designed for college-bound and/or career-oriented students who perform at grade level in their reading and language arts skills. Integrating reading, writing, literature, speaking, listening, vocabulary, library, and critical-thinking skills, students will read and write for a variety of purposes. A formal research project is required. This course fulfills one-half unit of required English IV credit.

R-0074- ADVANCED COMPOSITION & RESEARCH: MULTICULTURAL LITERATURE FOR 12 1/2 UNIT  Seniors may choose this course for second semester. Multicultural Literature is a course for seniors that encompass the cultural experiences through diverse ethnic groups. The course emphasizes the development of composition techniques, reading, and critical thinking skills. A research project with written documentation is required. Students are expected to produce documents of publication quality using contemporary technology. This course fulfills one-half unit of required English IV credit.

R-0158- ADVANCED COMPOSITION & RESEARCH: WORLD HUMANITIES FOR 12 1/2 UNIT  Seniors may choose this course for second semester. The World Humanities course provides senior students an opportunity to observe, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate world literature, allowing students to gain an understanding of historic and global diversity. Students will compare and contrast literary and artistic themes and styles while learning accepted criteria for aesthetic judgment. The course acknowledges different learning styles by allowing students hands-on experiences; opportunities to work independently as well as in small and large groups; and participation in student projects, written composition, and classroom discussion. Integrating reading, writing, literature, speaking, listening, vocabulary, library, and critical thinking skills, students read and write for a variety of purposes. A formal research project is required. This course fulfills one-half unit of required English IV credit.

R-1003-I ENGLISH I FOR 9 1 UNIT  This course introduces the elements of fiction through the study of short stories and novels. The essay and short biography forms are studied as models for the teaching of writing. The course emphasizes the writing process to develop the basic skills needed for correct writing and critical thinking. Major areas of study include reading, library skills, critical thinking skills, and vocabulary development. This course is designed for students who have met entry level reading and writing requirements. Independent Research Project is required. This course fulfills one unit of required English credit.

R-1007-I HONORS ENGLISH I FOR 9 1 UNIT  This freshman English course emphasizes higher-level thinking skills. Through a focus on using both fiction and nonfiction readings as models of writing, students will develop skills in the analysis of what is read so that they can apply similar techniques to their own writing. Research and technology, as well as listening and speaking, will support the development of these skills. Students will practice in-depth analysis of both fiction and nonfiction readings, gain preliminary skills in research and technology, and reinforce listening and speaking skills. Students in this course will practice reading works of various lengths and test-taking skills for a variety of tests. Students will create and practice single and multi-paragraph writing assignments for a variety of purposes. This course is designed for students who perform above level in their reading and language arts skills. Independent Research Project is required. This course fulfills one unit of required English credit.
R-1015-I ENGLISH II FOR 10 1 UNIT Integrating reading, writing, literature, speaking, listening, vocabulary, library skills, and critical thinking skills, students read and write for a variety of purposes. Using thematic units and incorporating engaged learning strategies, students analyze what they read and apply it in their own writing. Students will read, understand, and appreciate a variety of literary and technical genres representative of many cultures, eras, and ideas. This course is designed for students who perform at grade level in their reading and language arts skills because the genres are studied in depth. Independent Research Project is required.

A-1019-I HONORS ENGLISH II FOR 10 1 UNIT Integrating reading, writing, literature, speaking, listening, vocabulary, library skills, and critical thinking skills, students read and write for a variety of purposes. Using thematic units and incorporating engaged learning strategies, students analyze what they read and apply it in their own writing. Students will read, understand, and appreciate a variety of literary and technical genres representative of many cultures, eras, and ideas. This course is designed for students who perform above grade level in their reading and language arts skills. The materials are studied in greater depth and the pace is accelerated. Independent Research Project is required.

R-1024 READING FOUNDATIONS FOR 9 1 UNIT In the Reading Foundations course teachers assist students in using the appropriate study skills and organizational skills needed for their content area classes. Teachers also concentrate on reading skill development based on individual student needs particularly in the areas of vocabulary, comprehension, fluency, text familiarity, writing, and test taking. By increasing students’ overall reading skills, their confidence will rise. Students will be formally assessed at the beginning of the year as well as at the end of each semester.

R-1025-I HIGH SCHOOL READING FOR 9 1 UNIT The High School Reading course aims to improve student ability in reading, raising students to grade level through concentrated study of reading strategies. The course will also support students in all content areas while reinforcing strategies and skills in vocabulary, comprehension, fluency, text familiarity, writing, and test taking. By increasing students’ overall reading skills, their confidence will rise. Weekly vocabulary assignments and class participation are required to assist individual growth in reading skills. Students will be formally assessed at the beginning of the year as well as at the end of each semester.

R-1026 READING SEMINAR FOR 9 1 UNIT The Reading Seminar course will provide students with intensive and skills-based instruction in the art and science of reading. The main purpose of this course will be twofold: to provide SKILLS instruction and practice in the various types of reading that appear on high-stakes, standardized tests, and to encourage and develop enthusiasm for reading in all students, including the reading of novels, newspapers, magazines, internet sources, and a variety of text styles. Strongly research-based, this course will focus on the five key skills that students must master to become effective readers in our information age: (1) vocabulary development, (2) fluency practice, (3) comprehensive, (4) purpose in reading, and (5) lifetime reading applications. Students in Reading Seminar will increase knowledge of their own learning styles, studying techniques, and self-awareness as a reader and learner. Students will be formally assessed at the beginning of the year as well as at the end of each semester.

R-1047-A ENGLISH III FOR 11 1 UNIT This course traces the development of American literature and thought from pre-Colonial times to the present through a survey of literary and technical genres, devices, and techniques representative of many diverse subcultures, eras and ideas. This course is designed for college-bound and/or career-oriented students who perform at grade level in their reading and language arts skills. Integrating reading, writing, literature, speaking, listening, vocabulary, library and critical thinking skills, students read and write for a variety of purposes. Preparation skills for college entrance exams and the Prairie State assessment are emphasized. A formal, research project is required, as well as an annotated bibliography for the Senior Project.

A-1051-A ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH III FOR 11 1 UNIT This course is designed specifically for the student planning to take the Advanced Placement Language and Composition Test offered in early May. It consists of a survey of American literature, selected world readings, strategies in A.P. testing (concentrating on language and composition), and critical thinking and writing. Additionally, preparation skills for college entrance exams and the Prairie State Achievement Exam are emphasized. PREREQUISITES: Credits in Honors English II or by approval.

R-1065-A JOURNALISM FOR 10-11-12 1 UNIT This course focuses on the basic skills necessary for writing news stories, feature articles, and editorials. The student gains practical experience in production of a high school newspaper. Students who take this course may apply for staff positions on the school newspaper. The students also receive individual
instruction and practical experience in all phases of newspaper work by producing the school newspaper. They edit, copy and/or proofread; write headlines, news, editorials, features, and sports stories; interview people; make up pages; sell advertising; and provide photographs and artwork. Proficiency in grammar, spelling and composition skills is recommended. This course does not fulfill the English requirement but provides 1 unit of elective credit.
A-1079-A ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH IV FOR 12 1 UNIT This course is designed specifically for the student planning to take the Advanced Placement Literature and Composition test offered in early May. Critical thinking and writing skills will be emphasized through an analysis of the essay, short story, novel, poetry, and drama. PREREQUISITES: Credits in A.P. English III or area approval.

R-1087-A YEARBOOK FOR 11-12 1 UNIT This course emphasizes the preparation and publication of the school yearbook. Students receive instruction in planning page layouts, the use of photographic equipment, writing and editing copy, and business management. Staff members are selected on the basis of interest, talents, and the ability to assume responsibility. This course does not fulfill the English requirement but provides 1 unit of elective credit.

R-2010-SOPHOMORE READING FOR 10 1 UNIT In the Sophomore Reading course, teachers assist students in using the appropriate study skills and organizational skills needed for their content area classes. Teachers also concentrate on reading skill development based on individual student needs particularly in the areas of vocabulary, comprehension, fluency, text familiarity, writing, and test taking. By increasing students’ overall reading skills, their confidence will rise. Students will be formally assessed at the beginning of the year as well as at the end of each semester.