



HONORS ENGLISH GRADE 9

Counselors are available to assist parents and students with course selections and career planning. Parents may arrange to meet with the counselor by calling the school's guidance department.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Honors English 9 course focuses on developing the students' critical and analytical language skills. The students' year begins with the portfolio overview and a literary genres overview. As the students examine the elements of narration, they review the elements of plot, setting, characterization, tone, theme, and point of view in short stories and novels. In addition, they gain an understanding of attitude, tone, and perspective. During the study of nonfiction, the students analyze various forms including essays, reports, biographies, and autobiographies. In addition, they learn to distinguish between subjective and objective writing. As they study satire, the students learn to distinguish the characteristics of various types of satire and the fact that satire can cross genres.

While studying poetry, students examine the ways writers use the elements and devices of poetry to create a literary effect. Students are thoroughly immersed in the language of poetry as they read, discuss and analyze poems. As the students progress through the last unit, they read plays from the three stages in the development of drama (Greek, Elizabethan, and Modern). During the reading of the plays, students study theatrical conventions, sharpen their skills in oral interpretation, justify their personal responses to the work, develop a specialized vocabulary related to the study of drama, and collaborate on an informal research project.

These units integrate skills in reading, writing, speaking/listening, problem solving, and working cooperatively. Composition instruction emphasizes the five modes of discourse as well as creative writing. Grammar, usage, mechanics, and vocabulary are integrated into each unit for the purpose of strengthening skills as needed. All pieces of a student's writing are stored in a Works in Progress folder from which each student selects pieces of writing for his or her writing portfolio. The contents of the portfolio illustrate how each student has grown and improved as a writer throughout the year.

PREREQUISITE

Advanced English 8 or English 8 and teacher recommendation

OPTIONS FOR NEXT COURSE

Enrollment for the next English course should be based on student performance, teacher recommendation, and parent input. The courses available are English, Grade 10 and Honors English, Grade 10.

REQUIRED STUDENT TEXTBOOKS

Elements of Literature, Third Course
Holt Language Handbook

READING SELECTIONS

Works may be chosen from the following list.

Alas, Babylon, Frank
Arms and the Man, Shaw
Cold Sassy Tree, Burns

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in
the Night Time*, Haddon

Dust Tracks on a Road, Hurston
Ellen Foster, Gibbons

Friday Night Lights, Bissinger

Great Expectations, Dickens

The House on Mango Street, Cisneros

The Little Prince, De Saint Exupery

A Midsummer Night's Dream, Shakespeare

Murder on the Orient Express, Christie
Nicholas and Alexandra, Massey

October Sky, Hickam

Our Town, Wilder

Romeo and Juliet, Shakespeare

This Boy's Life: A Memoir,
Wolff

Twelfth Night, Shakespeare

Walk Two Moons, Creech

Standards for English 9
Virginia Beach City Public Schools

COMMUNICATION: SPEAKING, LISTENING, AND MEDIA LITERACY

- 9.1 The student will participate in small-group learning activities. (SOL 9.1)
- 9.2 The student will make planned oral presentations independently and within small groups. (SOL 9.1)
- 9.3 The student will produce, analyze, and evaluate auditory, visual, and written media messages. (SOL 9.2)

READING AND RESPONDING TO LITERATURE

- 9.4 The student will apply knowledge of word origins, derivations, and figurative language to extend vocabulary development in authentic texts. (SOL 9.3)
- 9.5 The student will read, comprehend, and analyze a variety of literary texts including narratives, narrative nonfiction, poetry, and drama. (SOL 9.4)
- 9.6 The student will read and analyze a variety of nonfiction texts. (SOL 9.5)

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

- 9.7 The student will develop narrative, expository, and persuasive writings for a variety of audiences and purposes. (SOL 9.6)
- 9.8 The student will apply general essay structures to convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
- 9.9 The student will apply knowledge of the writing process to develop and strengthen writing and to reflect upon growth as writer.
- 9.10 The student will use specific grammatical structures to develop cohesive writing, to improve sentence variety and to clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.
- 9.11 The student will self- and peer-edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, spelling, sentence structure, and paragraphing. (SOL 9.7)

RESEARCH

- 9.12 The student will use print, electronic databases, online resources, and other media to access information to create a research product. (SOL 9.8)



Mission Statement

The Virginia Beach City Public Schools, in partnership with the entire community, will empower every student to become a life-long learner who is a responsible, productive and engaged citizen within the global community.

Dr. James G. Merrill, Superintendent

DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION
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The following staff are designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Director of Guidance Services at (757) 263-1980 or to the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources at (757) 263-1133.

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit <http://wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OCR/contactus.cfm> for the address and phone number of the office that serves your area, or call 1-800-421-3481.

Alternative formats of this publication which may include taped, Braille, or large print materials are available upon request for individuals with disabilities. Call or write The Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Virginia Beach City Public Schools, 2512 George Mason Drive, P.O. Box 6038, Virginia Beach, VA 23456-0038. Telephone (757) 263-1070 or (757) 263-1429; fax (757) 263-1424; TDD (757) 263-1240

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