



English

The English Department program is a developmental one whereby students individually progress and develop their skills. All courses, strategies, and units are based on the Next Gen Learning or New York State English Language Arts Standards. Students will read, listen, write, and speak for information and understanding, literary response

and expression, critical analysis and evaluation, and social interaction. Our students will become personally involved in a variety of language arts activities in a heterogeneous, supportive learning environment. All students must successfully pass the English Regents Exam to fulfill graduation requirements.

COURSE OFFERINGS

<u>Course</u>	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Type of Exam</u>
English 9	1 unit	40 weeks	Local
English 9 Honors	1 unit	40 weeks	Local
English 10	1 unit	40 weeks	Local
English 10 Honors	1 unit	40 weeks	Local
English 11	1 unit	40 weeks	Regents
English 11 Honors	1 unit	40 weeks	Regents
English 12	1 unit	40 weeks	Local
English AP	1 unit	40 weeks	AP
English 12 Honors	1 unit	40 weeks	Hilbert
TV Broadcasting (West)	1 unit	40 weeks	Local
Communication Skills for 21st Century*	½ unit	20 weeks	Local
Wicked Works of Fiction*	½ unit	20 weeks	Local
Heroes, Legends and Lore*	½ unit	20 weeks	Local
Sports and Adventure Literature & Writing*	½ unit	20 weeks	Local
Creating Narrative Cinema (East)	1 unit	40 weeks	Local

*Seniors can select two .5 unit alternatives in lieu of English 12 or in addition to AP English in their senior year.

English 9

Credit: 1 Unit

Length: 40 weeks

This ninth grade English course is tailored to all ability levels and is designed to foster creativity in thinking and writing while further defining the fundamentals of language usage and imparting a sense of style in writing. It also intends to develop an awareness of the literary genre with emphasis on critical reading skills. Techniques of oral communication are introduced, and the importance of good listening habits are stressed. The final assessment is a district exam aligned with the Next Gen Learning Standards.

English 9 Honors

Credit: 1 Unit

Length: 40 weeks

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 8 Honors in Middle School and teacher recommendation.

This honors course continues the development of reading and writing skills with an emphasis on the development of literary analysis and evaluation skills. In addition to reading and writing assignments completed in class, students will be expected to regularly complete such assignments outside of class. Students will complete a summer reading project. The final assessment is a district exam aligned with the Next Gen Learning Standards.

English 10

Credit: 1 Unit

Length: 40 weeks

This tenth grade course continues to stress the development of reading, writing, speaking and listening with an emphasis on the studying of literary genres and the fundamentals of critical reading and writing. The final assessment is a district exam aligned with the Next Gen Learning Standards.

English 10 Honors

Credit: 1 Unit

Length: 40 weeks

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 9 Honors and/or teacher recommendation.

This course is designed for the academically talented student. It goes beyond the scope of the English 2 course to include more challenging and stimulating literature. The writing/research projects provide opportunities for higher levels of creativity and critical thought processes. Students will complete a summer reading project. The final assessment is a district exam aligned with the Next Gen Learning Standards.

English 11

Credit: 1 Unit

Length: 40 weeks

This course consists of a study of Literature and composition, vocabulary development, and an independent reading program. It fosters mastery in the areas of listening, reading, and writing for information and understanding, literary response, critical analysis and research. The final assessment is the English Regents Exam.

English 11 Honors

Credit: 1 Unit Length: 40 weeks

Prerequisite: English 10 Honors and Teacher Recommendation

This course is an intensive, challenging survey of literature. Students taking this course will study texts from different periods of history, examining how writers analyze the major social and cultural questions of their time through literature. Through the study of literature, students will explore the idea that there are multiple correct readings of a text, but all good readings are grounded in the text. Students will also identify the literary elements and techniques writers employ to tell these stories and, more importantly, how these devices impact meaning. English 11 Honors also includes

study of non-fiction texts, including research writing and how authors use language to create meaning. Students will compose argumentative, informational, narrative and analytical pieces of writing. Students are expected to read independently outside of class time.

Students may also register for course credit through Hilbert for a fee. This is optional, but would guarantee college credit if a passing grade is earned in the course.

English 12

Credit: 1 Unit Length: 40 weeks

This course focuses on helping students explore and advance their skills in thinking, vocabulary, comprehension, active discussion, research techniques, writing thesis papers and reading a wide gamut of literature. Emphasis in this course is placed on critical analysis and research. The teacher designs the final assessment.

English 12 Honors

Credit: 1 Unit Length: 40 weeks

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 11 Honors or English 11 and Teacher Recommendation

This course is a dual enrollment course, partnering with Hilbert College for EN 102 Writing Across the Humanities. Students will read a variety of types of literature including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama while they practice their analytical and interpretive skills as well as prepare for college level writing, evaluation, and research.

Students may also register for course credit through Hilbert for a fee. This is optional, but would guarantee college credit if a passing grade is earned in the course.

English AP

Credit: 1 Unit Length: 40 weeks

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 11, English 11 Honors and Teacher Recommendation

This course is designed for college bound seniors. Students enrolled in this course may gain credit hours that may be applied to college programs at most colleges and universities. Credit is based on successfully completing the Advanced Placement test in Literature and Composition, which is given in the spring. Credits are awarded by earning a 3, 4, or 5 on the exam. This course requires that students do independent reading. Students are also required to write essays of analysis of the works that they have read. Students will read poetry, plays, novels and short stories ranging from classical Greek drama to literature of the twentieth century. Students will complete a summer reading project. A dual credit option through Hilbert College is also available for EN102 Writing Across the Humanities.

Students will be required to sit for the AP exam in May. The AP exam fee is covered by the district. Students may also register for course credit through Hilbert for a fee. This is optional, but would guarantee college credit if a passing grade is earned in the course.

TV Broadcasting (West)

Credit: 1 Unit Length: 40 weeks

Prerequisite: Grade 12

TV Broadcasting is a project-based course in which students learn how to broadcast, write, produce, and anchor daily, live, televised programs for the school. This course is designed to prepare students who may be interested in pursuing Communications or Journalism majors at the collegiate level with foundational knowledge in all phases of the broadcasting process, including: identifying, researching, and prioritizing news stories; writing detailed storyboards and scripting segments; staging shots and filming segments; editing videos in post-production; and more. Students will work independently, as well as in production

groups, to develop news stories, feature stories, editorials, commercial advertising for school programs, and opening segments. Students will also gain experience in front of the camera as reporters and on-air talents.

Note: Cannot be taken simultaneously with T.V. Productions

Communication Skills for 21st Century

Credit: ½ Unit Length: 20 weeks

Prerequisite: Grade 12

This participation-focused course is designed to help students become effective communicators, both in person and through digital media. Emphasizing public speaking skills, the curriculum integrates emerging technologies to enhance interpersonal communication in a variety of settings. Topics of study may include; but are not limited to, public speaking paired with presentation tools such as Google Slides and Canva, podcast production, debate and persuasive techniques, and the application of research to support informative communication.

Wicked Works of Fiction

Credit: ½ Unit Length: 20 weeks

Prerequisite: Grade 12

Writers of dystopian, science fiction, fantasy, horror, mystery, and satirical fiction grapple with universal themes about human nature. Discussions of this literature will attempt to answer questions about the roots of evil, the individual and alienation, the desire for divine power, and the question of “other”. The course will examine these questions and look for answers about the nature of humanity.

Heroes, Legends, and Lore

Credit: ½ Unit Length: 20 weeks

Prerequisite: Grade 12

This is a twenty-week course that delves into the universal patterns of heroic tales across

various cultures, as outlined in Joseph Campbell's *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*. This course invites students to embark on an epic adventure through the intricate pathways of the heroic journey, uncovering the twelve critical steps that define every hero's path and exploring various heroic archetypes, including the “tragic hero,” “antihero,” and “unlikely hero.” Students will dissect the hero's journey, gaining insights into the universal stages that compose the monomyth. Through film analysis, personal reflection, short stories,, and the novel *Lore*, students will engage with multiple mediums to see the monomyth in action while examining and discussing the cultural significance and timeless appeal of heroic narratives.

Sports and Adventure Literature and Writing

Credit: ½ Unit Length: 20 weeks

Prerequisite: Grade 12

Students will analyze a wide range of material relating to the topic of sports as well as survival skills. Through various lenses, students will explore significant societal, cultural and personal issues within literature. Students will engage with a variety of texts including a major text, short fiction, nonfiction, articles, and documentaries. Students will also engage in different types of writing, including personal narrative, journalistic writing, projects, and research-based writing. Students will participate in various discussions about course material as well. The final exam is a research project.

Creating Narrative Cinema (East)

Credit: 1 Unit Length: 40 weeks

Prerequisite: Grade 12 and enrolled in Film and Multimedia Production

This course will focus on the creation of narrative cinema using basic narrative

principles of English Language Arts (character, conflict, dialogue, point of view, and plot but with a screenwriting focus) in addition to incorporating film analysis to gain further insight into the visual, literary, aural, and performance aesthetics that comprise a work of cinema. By the end of the course, students will have acquired the knowledge and skills of reading film, developing personal meanings and interpretations of film, and written/visual cinematic composition as it pertains to film production (creative writing, script writing,

storyboarding, brainstorming, literary adaptation, etc.). Students will produce various scripts tackling a wide range of formats: public service announcements (PSAs), commercials, comic and dramatic sketches and skits, a short documentary film and a short narrative film. This course is offered as part of the Film and Multimedia Senior Concentration and will culminate in a film festival highlighting student work. This course will satisfy the 4th unit of English.

Co-Curricular Connection:

The School Newspaper

[Trojan Times – East Senior](#)

[West Horizons - West Senior](#)

The award winning school newspapers are open to anyone interested in communicating in the print media. Students meet periodically to discuss the five issues printed during the year. From there, students work independently to produce the articles for publication.

By writing for school publications students develop pride and responsibility for their published pieces. The publications serve as purposeful learning experiences in which students forge friendships and create lasting memories. West Horizons and Trojan Times participate in regional conferences and competitions sponsored by colleges and conducted by professionals in the journalism field.

The School Literary Magazine

[Creative License – East Senior](#)

[West Writer's Club - West Senior](#)

The literary magazine is a school-wide publication featuring poetry, short stories, photography, and artwork. Students plan, write, edit, and design the publication. Membership on the literary magazine staff is open to all students. The students meet weekly to produce one publication a year.

English Honors Socratic Society (East)

Requirements: Candidates for membership must have been in attendance at the school the equivalent of one semester prior to being considered. If special circumstances merit, the Faculty Advisory Council may waive the semester regulation.

Candidates must: complete the equivalent of two semesters of English, have achieved a minimum overall grade point average of a 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale), have achieved a minimum English grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) prior to induction as members.

Candidates achieving the minimal requirements may be invited to apply for membership in NEHS. The application process will require candidates to demonstrate their desire to be a member of NEHS. Application processes developed by Faculty Advisory Councils may include additional criteria (i.e., application essays, letters of recommendation, etc.) but all requirements must be based on demonstrated academic performance, interest in NEHS, and applicant character.



Project LIT

This chapter of the nationwide organization brings together students throughout the West Seneca District through Community Service projects, discussion, and reading and writing. Students read and discuss diverse Young Adult Literature, volunteer as literacy ambassadors throughout elementary schools in the district, and build Little Free Libraries throughout the West Seneca Community to promote Literacy in a meaningful and concrete way. In taking part in Project LIT, students foster a greater sense of social awareness, and unite to develop and produce projects that benefit the community.