

English and Language Arts

The Language Arts program at Springfield High School integrates all the language arts skills— reading, writing, speaking, listening, thinking, and researching – into the curriculum and helps students apply these skills to meaningful tasks. Our program goal is to have students achieve high academic standards goals in the language arts: reading independently, reading critically, analyzing and responding to literature, writing in various forms for a variety of audiences, producing compositions of high quality, speaking proficiently, and using research skills. Students at all grade levels will be expected to know and meet district and state standards in reading, writing, speaking and listening. Technology is infused into each course in a deliberate and meaningful fashion.

Language Arts Grade 9

Hn 110

In Language Arts (I) Honors, students will be introduced to reading experiences from various genres of fiction and non-fiction, and they will learn the necessary skills specific to each type of reading. To enhance their understanding and appreciation of the literature, students will discover the relationship between the works and their respective time periods and cultures. In conjunction with and in addition to the reading, students will employ the writing process and write extensively in various modes, ranging from formal literary analysis to persuasion and poetic response. Reading and writing skills will be assessed daily for development with a goal of demonstration of mastery. Grammar and vocabulary development via the Sadlier Vocabulary Workshop program (Level E) are also stressed. In Honors level classes, students must be self-motivated, possess strong writing skills, and be able to work through challenging texts independently. Students will be required to read and write more extensively and in more depth. Additionally, a greater expectation is placed on outside preparation and work to be ready for a more rigorous classroom learning environment.

CP 111

In Language Arts (I) College Preparatory, students will be introduced to and study various genres of fiction and non-fiction, and they will learn the necessary skills specific to each type of reading. To enhance their understanding and appreciation of the literature, students will discover the relationship between the works and their respective time periods and cultures. In conjunction with and in addition to the reading, students will employ the writing process and write extensively in various modes, ranging from formal literary analysis to persuasion and poetic response. Reading and writing skills will be assessed daily for development with a goal of demonstration of mastery. Grammar and vocabulary development via the Sadlier Vocabulary Workshop program (Level D) are also stressed.

Language Arts Grade 10

Hn 120

In Language Arts (II) Honors, students will be introduced to reading experiences from American writers, examining how they represent and interpret the American experience through their works. The course intends to provide students with an exposure to the social, economic and cultural events that have shaped and defined our values and our goals as a nation. In addition to the study of literature, students will have opportunities to employ the writing process in a variety of writing modes. Grammar, usage, mechanics, and vocabulary via the Sadlier Vocabulary Workshop program (Level F) will be studied and developed. This course will place an emphasis in preparing students for taking the Keystone Literature Exam. Assessment methods vary and include oral, written, multi-media and group presentations. In Honors level classes, students must be self-motivated, possess strong writing skills, and be able to work through challenging texts independently. Students will be required to read and write more extensively and in more depth. Additionally, a greater expectation is placed on outside preparation and work to be ready for a more rigorous classroom learning environment.

CP 121

Language Arts (II) College Preparatory will examine how American writers have represented and interpreted the American experience through their works. The course intends to provide students with an exposure to the social, economic and cultural events that have shaped and defined our values and our goals as a nation. The development of the course may be thematic or chronological as students read works by American authors. In addition to the study of literature, students will have the opportunity to employ the writing process in a variety of writing modes. This course will place a heavy emphasis in preparing students for taking the Keystone Literature Exam. Grammar, usage, mechanics, and vocabulary development via the Sadlier Vocabulary Workshop (Level E) will be studied. Assessment methods vary and include oral, written, multi-media and group presentations.

Language Arts Grade 11

Hn 130

In Language Arts (III) Honors, students will build upon their 10th grade literature experience. This course moves students from an American outlook to a global perspective. Through this global exposure to modern world literature, students explore the human condition considering the cultural implications through reading experiences drawn from throughout the world, including the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Latin America. In addition to the study of literature, this course focuses on college preparation, including an emphasis on the development of college level writing and literary analysis, MLA format, vocabulary development via the Sadlier Vocabulary Workshop program (Level G), and independent reading and writing. Assessment methods vary and include written, multi-media and group presentations. In Honors level classes, students must be self-motivated, possess strong writing skills, and be able to work through challenging texts independently. Students will be required to read and write more extensively and in more depth. Additionally, a greater expectation is placed on outside preparation and work to be ready for a more rigorous classroom learning environment.

CP 131

Language Arts (III) College Preparatory builds upon the 10th grade literature experience. This course moves students from an American outlook on the 20th century to a global perspective. Through this global exposure to modern world literature, students explore the human condition considering the cultural implications found in novels, short stories, poetry, plays, and memoirs from throughout the world, including the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Latin America. In addition to the study of literature, students will employ the writing process in a variety of modes, including narrative, informational, and persuasive. Grammar, usage, mechanics, and vocabulary development via the Sadlier Vocabulary Workshop program (Level F) will be stressed. Assessment methods vary and include oral, written, multi-media and group presentations.

Advance Placement Language and Composition – AP 139

The AP English Language and Composition course is designed to help students become skilled readers of prose written in a variety of rhetorical contexts and to become skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Both their writing and their reading should make students aware of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, and subjects as well as the way generic conventions and the resources of language contribute to effectiveness in writing. To this end, grammar instruction is a strong component of the course. Students will have opportunities to write about a variety of subjects and to demonstrate an awareness of audience and purpose. The overarching objective is to enable students to write effectively and confidently across the curriculum and in their professional and personal lives. Another purpose of the AP English Language and Composition course is to enable students to read complex texts from many disciplines and historical periods with understanding and to write prose of sufficient richness and complexity to communicate effectively with mature readers. To reflect the increasing importance of graphics and visual images in texts published in print and electronic media, students are asked to analyze how such images both relate to written texts and serve as

alternative forms of texts themselves. Vocabulary development will be addressed via the Sadlier Vocabulary Workshop program (Level G).

Language Arts Grade 12

Hn 140

In Language Arts (IV) Honors, students will be introduced to reading experiences drawn from both classical and modern literature, along with a variety of supplementary texts. The course will center on various types of writing including argument, analysis, and evaluation. The students will engage in the writing process through critical analysis of a text, drafting an argument, and working through the revision process. Other areas of study include literary criticism, vocabulary acquisition via the Sadlier Vocabulary Workshop program (Level H), mechanical expression, and literary analysis. In Honors level classes, students must be self-motivated, possess strong writing skills, and be able to work through challenging texts independently. Students will be required to read and write more extensively and in more depth. Additionally, a greater expectation is placed on outside preparation and work to be ready for a more rigorous classroom learning environment.

CP 141

In Language Arts (IV) College Preparatory, students will develop an understanding and appreciation of major works of classical and modern literature. Works may include *Oedipus Rex*, *Antigone*, *A Doll's House*, *Macbeth* and/or *Hamlet*. The course will weave in a variety of supplementary texts that enhance student comprehension of core texts. The course will center on various types of writing including argument, analysis, and evaluation. The students will engage in the writing process through critical analysis of the text, drafting an argument, and working through the revision process. Other areas of study include vocabulary acquisition via the Sadlier Vocabulary Workshop program (Level G), mechanical expression, and literary analysis.

Advanced Placement Literature and Composition – AP 149

The purpose of this course is to give qualified students the opportunity to read, write, think, and speak about challenging works of literature in a seminar setting. The overall reading goal is to provide for the experience, interpretation, and evaluation of literature through extensive writing and discussion. We will supplement our core readings with independent readings and supplementary texts. As we read, we will look to identify common themes among the novels, plays, poems, stories, articles, and essays. Our reading and writing will be supported by work from the Sadlier Vocabulary Workshop program (Level H). The way we make learning real and lasting is through finding connections between the different texts we immerse ourselves in during class. We will not study texts in isolation; rather, we will put them in conversation with one another and use them as lenses for critically viewing each text. We will learn to use literary criticism to create meaning with texts. We will learn to apply Theory of Mind to challenging texts, grapple with issues of authorial choice as a threshold concept and practice a variety of writing approaches from analytical to argumentative. The way we use the texts of this course will help to prepare students for the AP Literature and Composition exam in May and a college level English course. This course follows the AP curriculum.

In this AP course, students will be required to read and write more extensively and, in more depth, and can expect a greater demand for homework responsibilities and independent preparation.

Additional Language Arts Course Offerings

News Media and Journalism – 150

In News Media and Journalism, students will focus on the gathering and dissemination of newsworthy facts and explore multiple modes of news publications like traditional newspapers, online news publications, podcasts and other modern news platforms. Students will study the ethics of student journalism and engage in the interview process, feature and editorial writing, audio and digital reporting, photography, editing, and publishing. A focal

point of the course will center on the news gathering process and explore the biases of current news media. This analytical approach will encourage students to craft their views and share events in a responsible and meaningful manner with their school community. All students will submit quarterly articles and help with the development of ideas and topics for the editorial staff of the SPRI HIAN. All students interested in an introduction to news media and journalism should consider taking this course.

Literature and Film – 151

In teaching both literary and filmmaking techniques, this course will use a variety of carefully chosen films as a medium for understanding the relationship between film and literature. Students will study the language of film and will focus on artistic techniques, such as the use of lighting, camera angles, music and sound, and editing to best evaluate a film's success. Students will submit film reviews and complete presentations based on the techniques and devices studied and interpreted. All Language Arts academic standards will be met in this course with a heavy emphasis on persuasive writing.

Philosophy of Pop Culture – 152

Using the popular television show *The Good Place* as its foundation, this course will explore the philosophical underpinnings of popular movies, television, cartoons, and novels. From *Star Wars* to *The Avengers*, *Stranger Things* to *Game of Thrones*, *The Simpsons* to the *Peanuts*, *The Hunger Games* to Harry Potter, students will be introduced to philosophical concepts found in modern pop culture. Ultimately, students will explore a pop culture topic of their own choosing. Students should expect to read and write as a central component of this course.

AP Seminar – Advanced Placement Seminar AP 995

AP Seminar is a foundational course that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. Using an inquiry framework, students practice reading and analyzing articles, research studies, and foundational literary and philosophical texts; listening to and viewing speeches, broadcasts, and personal accounts; and experiencing artistic works and performances. Students learn to synthesize information from multiple sources, develop their own perspectives in research-based written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as a part of a team. Ultimately, the course aims to equip students with the power to analyze and evaluate information with accuracy and precision to craft and communicate evidence-based arguments. AP Seminar is an interdisciplinary course; students may focus their research on topics of their choosing. NOTE WELL: AP Seminar is the first course in the AP Capstone™ program. More information about AP Capstone™ can be found at <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-capstone?course=ap-capstone-diploma-program>

Communications Course Offerings (found in the CVP Department Course Listing on HAC)

News Media and Journalism – 150

In News Media and Journalism, students will focus on the gathering and dissemination of newsworthy facts and explore multiple modes of news publications like traditional newspapers, online news publications, podcasts and other modern news platforms. Students will study the ethics of student journalism and engage in the interview process, feature and editorial writing, audio and digital reporting, photography, editing, and publishing. A focal point of the course will center on the news gathering process and explore the biases of current news media. This analytical approach will encourage students to craft their views and share events in a responsible and meaningful manner with their school community. All students will submit quarterly articles and help with the development of ideas and topics for the editorial staff of the SPRI HIAN. All students interested in an introduction to news media and journalism should consider taking this course.

Presenting in a Tech Driven World – 839

Advancements and innovations in technology and software applications are being integrated into presentations and public speaking to provide for a more robust and interactive experience for the audience and presenter alike. This course will introduce students to a variety of presentation platforms to complement the public speaking skills students will develop as they learn the language of communication, both verbal and nonverbal, when presenting to an audience. Students in this course will participate in a variety of speaking/presentation situations including informative, persuasive, and narrative while integrating technology to enhance the effectiveness of the presentation. Students will also evaluate presentations, express individual opinions, and work on presentation projects with peers.

Acting Workshop – 840

Students will develop self-confidence in this course, both as performers and as individuals. They will receive a general orientation to the Stanislavski "Method" of acting. Course activities include extensive work in improvisation, characterization, stage movement, monologues, and scene work. Class and teacher viewing of performances and class participation are included in the evaluation of students.

Behind the Curtain: An Introduction to Technical Theater – 843

In this course, students will explore the backstage world of theater utilizing the technical equipment found in the high school theater. Students will participate in units of study focused on theatrical spaces, scenic design, beginning set construction, lighting design, costume design, sound design, prop design, and stage management. Assessment will consist of a combination of hands-on projects, design simulations, and traditional written assessments. No prior technical experience necessary.