

Welcome

We're glad you are here!

Over the course of the next four years it is our intent to help our students reach their potential as:

Perceptive readers,

Effective Writers and

Critical Thinkers!

Students are required to have 4 years of English credit before they can graduate.

Colleges often look favorably on students that take extra writing and/or literature classes.

"Along with reading comprehension, writing skill is a predictor of academic success and a basic requirement for participation in civic life and the global community."

- Graham and Perin, *Writing Next*

"Writing today is not a frill for the few, but an essential skill for the many."
- The National Commission on Writing for America's Families, Schools and Colleges

ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Writing

Although students write in many genres in each class every year, specific structures will be addressed each year.

9th - *Literary Analysis Essay*

10th - *Compare/Contrast Essay*

11th - *Rhetorical Analysis Essay*
Persuasive Essay

12th - *Personal Narrative*
Analytical Essay
Synthesis Essay

Interesting Note: *The teacher recommendation portion of the Common Application, the form used by over 450 colleges and universities nationwide, including all the Ivies and the University of Michigan, asks teachers to rate students in terms of qualities like maturity, integrity, initiative, and work habits. Of the fifteen qualities teachers are asked to evaluate, only one is specific to the content of any subject area:*
"Quality of writing."

Reading

Students will read a combination of fiction and nonfiction with anchor texts and supplemental readings. Teachers will teach specific reading strategies that help students decode different types of texts with emphasis on:

Comprehension
Writers' Conventions
Audience and Context
Interpretation
Synthesis

Pioneer

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

BE BOLD
BE EXTRAORDINARY
BE A PIONEER

Class of
2024

"To be a good writer, you not only have to write a great deal, but you have to care."
Anne Lamott

"The ability to read awoke inside me some long dormant craving to be mentally alive."
Malcolm X

Acting I (9-12)

- This course explores the fundamentals of acting with emphasis on stage acting. Students will gain confidence in presenting themselves before an audience, learn to control their movements and facial expressions, learn to control the elements of vocal delivery, develop skills and strategies for memorization of text, recognize audience etiquette, and reflect upon their experiences.

Acting II (9-12)

- This course focuses on scene and monologue work. Students will memorize, rehearse and perform multiple monologues and scenes, both contemporary and classical, as well as participate in a variety of advanced exercises and activities designed to further develop the skills needed to inhabit a character by moving, speaking and expressing emotion in a realistic, believable way.

Screenwriting (9-12)

- This course focuses on the techniques of writing dramatic scripts and culminates with the option to submit to Pioneer Theater Guild's Student Productions.

Modern Drama Lit. (11-12)

- This course will focus on plays as a literary art form. Students will read, watch film adaptations, and attend live performances of significant works from major playwrights from Ibsen to the present.

Film (11-12)

- This course is an extensive study of the evolution of film beginning with the early silent movies and progressing through the decades, concluding with thematic explorations of popular film genres.

Creative Writing I (11-12)

- Students learn the basics of how to produce dynamic original literature across genres. Students will produce a new piece of writing each week.

Creative Writing II (11-12)

- Students will expand on their skills and techniques with an increased emphasis on poetic forms and on advanced stylistic techniques in both poetry and prose.

9-10 Core Curriculum

English - 9

- This is a foundational English course for all 9th graders. Students will be introduced to literary analysis and the basics of analytical writing.

Academic Literacy - 9

- This is an intensive reading/writing intervention that is in addition to English 9.

English - 10

- Students continue to develop their literary analysis and writing skills studying American and World authors.

Academic Literacy - 10

- This is an intensive reading/writing intervention that is in addition to English 10.

Journalism (9-12)

- This is an introduction to the basic elements of journalism, particularly news writing. Topics covered include the history of American media; news, feature, sports, and editorial writing; conducting interviews; journalism law and ethics; media analysis; and new media such as blogging, social networking, and online news.

Newspaper/Yearbook (9-12)

- Students write, edit, design, and produce *The Pioneer Optimist* (newspaper) or *Omega* (yearbook).

Enrichment/Support

Writing Center – Daily @ Lunch

- Peer coaching/tutoring and special seminars

Learning Center – After School

- Teacher and Peer tutors available

Pioneer Reads – Monthly

- School-wide Book Group

Pioneer Debate/Forensics

- Open to all students!

American Literature - 11

- This course takes a chronological approach to studying the major American works from the Puritans to the Harlem Renaissance.

AP Language & Comp. - 11

- This course takes a chronological approach to studying the major works from the Puritans to the Harlem Renaissance, focusing on preparing for the AP Language and Composition exam in May. Students should be strong readers and writers and able to move quickly through material.

African American Lit. 11/12

- This course is designed for students who have an interest in African-American literature. Emphasis is on texts by well know African-American writers.

African Am. Humanities 11/12

- This course explores traditional areas in U.S. history and literature from an African-American perspective taught in an interdisciplinary setting.

Contemporary World Lit. - 12

- This course is a college preparatory literature course intended to explore the diversity of global voices from 1990-present.

Humanities –Literature 12

- This course includes major works of the Western cultural tradition taught in an interdisciplinary setting that includes art and history.

AP Literature and Comp. - 12

- Students study a blend of sophisticated literature and practice advanced composition skills. This course is intended to also prepare students for the AP Literature and Composition exam.