

# COMMUNICATION ARTS DIVISION

JOSEPH FLANAGAN, DIRECTOR

*The Communication Arts Department includes the academic areas of English, speech, reading, and journalism. It offers courses on three levels – college preparatory, accelerated, and AP honors. It is the department's goal to assist students in becoming critical and analytical readers, logical and insightful thinkers, and skilled users of written, visual, and oral communication. All courses promote inquiry and a framework for argumentation to prepare students for college. These objectives are taught through written as well as spoken language.*



Students are required to take four years/eight credits of English classes in order to complete graduation requirements.



# COMMUNICATION ARTS DIVISION SEQUENCE

## Grade 9

Depending on their benchmark assessment results, some students may be required to take a year of Reading Enrichment with College Prep English

### College Prep

College Prep  
Freshman English  
ENG111/112

### Accl./Honors AP

Accl  
Freshman English  
ENG131/132

## Grade 10

College Prep  
Sophomore English  
ENG211/212

Accl  
Sophomore English  
ENG231/232

## Grade 11

College Prep Junior English  
ENG311/312

College Prep Junior English:  
Amer. Studies  
ENG321/322

Accl Junior English  
ENG381/382

AP Junior English  
ENG371/372

## Grade 12

**College Prep Senior Electives**

- \*Creative Writing, ENG501/502
- \*Creative Writing Seminar, ENG522
- \*Film Genres, ENG722
- Literary Analysis, ENG611/612
- Literary Genres, ENG621/622
- \*Media Analysis, ENG691
- Political Thought, ENG601/602
- Writing for College, ENG541/542

Accl World Masterpieces  
ENG431/432

AP Themes in World Literature  
ENG451/452

### Multi-Year Electives

Intro. Radio Broadcasting  
ENG983/982  
9-10-11-12

Public Speaking  
ENG761/762  
10-11-12

### Journalism Program

Journalistic Writing  
ENG901/902  
9-10-11-12

Adv. Journ. Writing  
ENG921/922  
9-10-11-12

Newspaper Production  
Accl  
ENG951/952  
10-11-12

Yearbook Production  
Accl  
ENG991/992  
10-11-12

### Multi-Year and Journalism Electives

Students may register for these courses during the years indicated in the flow chart. If taken prior to senior year, they are to be taken *in addition* to freshman, sophomore, or junior sequence courses.

\*Accelerated option: May be taken for accelerated credit. Teacher recommendation during the opening weeks of school required.

### Student Tutorial Programs

Students earning a six-week grade of "D+" or lower in Freshman English or a grade of "F" in Sophomore English and/or Junior English will be required to attend regularly scheduled tutorials in the school's Learning Center.

Students' skills in English (writing, revising, and editing) and reading are formally evaluated in their junior year as part of the state assessment program. Juniors not passing these assessments will be required to remediate their deficiencies in tutorials during their senior year.

#### Reading Enrichment (Core)

ENG101-Semester 1, ENG102-Semester 2

Open to 9

Full Year

*Prerequisite: Director recommendation as determined by the freshman benchmark exam*

The focus of this course provides instruction in the skills needed for success in high school. This course emphasizes fundamental reading skills by examining text structure and story development, word recognition, and author purpose. Literacy skills and study skills are taught and reviewed throughout the course. Depending on their benchmark assessment results, this course may be required of some entering freshmen.

#### Freshman English (College Prep)

#### Freshman English (Accelerated)

ENG111-Semester 1, ENG112-Semester 2

ENG131-Semester 1, ENG132-Semester 2

Open to 9

Full Year

*Prerequisite: None*

In each of these skills based courses, students develop proficiencies in the areas of reading, literary analysis, writing, grammar and usage, oral communication, and research. Students explore the overarching theme of the course—the individual's understanding of himself or herself and others—through short stories, essays and articles, novels, poetry, drama and other texts. Through their reading and inquiry, students are introduced to various stylistic techniques that help them learn strategies to improve their reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. Students write in multiple formats throughout the year, including narrative and argument, which is a framework for critical thinking. Writing is used to enhance student learning in all areas of literacy development. Authentic class discussion plays a vital role in that students talk in class as a means of enhancing their literacy skills. This holistic approach to literacy learning acclimates students to the benefits of reflecting and learning to think deeply about the ways they interact and communicate with the world around them. Students learn to write through a structured process approach that teaches students to analyze a writing task, develop the means by which to execute a task, and execute the writing through various drafting and revision stages. Students will be assessed regularly in the areas of full-class and small-group discussions, and students are required to deliver one formal speech each semester. Vocabulary study and reading instruction are integrated into the study of literature and other texts.

Incoming 9th graders are required to take one of these courses. Course selection is determined through the careful consideration of a number of factors. In January of the 8th grade year, students within the district take a benchmark assessment in Lan-

guage Arts. Students new to the district sit for this assessment in May or August. The data from the benchmark assessment is used, and each student's 8th grade Language Arts teacher is consulted to determine the best course for each student. Freshman College Prep English serves students who will benefit from continued reinforcement of the foundational skills noted above, while Freshman Accelerated English is best suited for students who are prepared for a greater challenge. Both classes are outstanding preparation for college.

#### Sophomore English (College Prep)

#### Sophomore English (Accelerated)

ENG211-Semester 1, ENG212-Semester 2

ENG231-Semester 1, ENG232-Semester 2

Open to 10

Full Year

*Prerequisite: None*

In each of these skills based courses, students continue to develop their proficiencies in reading, writing, literary analysis, grammar and usage, oral communication, and research. Students explore the overarching theme—the individual's interaction and negotiation with society—through the study of short stories, short essays and articles, novels, poetry, and drama. Through their exposure to a variety of texts, students build upon the various stylistic techniques introduced in Freshman English as a means of enhancing their literacy skills. A focus on persuasion introduces students to the study of rhetorical analysis. This writing intensive course builds upon the argumentation skills introduced in Freshman English while reinforcing a structured process approach to writing. Students will be assessed regularly in the areas of full-class and small-group discussions, and students will deliver one formal speech each semester. Vocabulary study and test preparation continue to be integrated into the study of literature and other texts. Sophomore College Prep English serves students who will benefit from continued reinforcement of the foundational skills noted above, while Sophomore Accelerated English is best suited for students who are prepared for a greater challenge.

#### Junior English (College Prep)

ENG311-Semester 1, ENG312-Semester 2

Open to 11

Full Year

*Prerequisite: None*

This skills based course completes the department's three-year scope and sequence in the areas of reading, writing, speaking and listening, grammar and usage, and research. Students explore American themes and values through a variety of texts. Through their reading and writing, students deepen their analysis of language, and they are introduced to literary criticism. Building on the Freshman and Sophomore English focus on argumentation, students continue to develop their writing through a structured process approach that is aligned with college writing expectations. This writing intensive course includes sophisticated literary analysis, synthesis and argumentative process essays. Instruction in the formal research process culminates in an extensive paper second semester. Students are assessed regularly in the area of full-class and small-group discussions, and they are required to participate in formal speaking assignments. Additionally, students participate in ACT test preparation in the areas of identifying English language skills and reading.

**Junior English: American Studies  
(College Prep)**

ENG321-Semester 1, ENG322-Semester 2

Open to 11

Full Year

*Prerequisite: World History, concurrent enrollment in U. S.*

*History: American Studies*

This skills-based course is taken in conjunction with US History: American Studies (College Prep). Students are scheduled for consecutive periods of history and English, allowing for an integrated study of the two disciplines, as well as activities which center on thematic movements in our country's history and literature. Through the literature, students review and deepen their analysis of language and rhetorical devices, and they are introduced to literary criticism. Students continue to study the elements of argumentation and persuasion; identifying logical fallacies, refuting the opposition, and employing rhetorical and stylistic strategies. This writing intensive course includes sophisticated literary analysis and argumentative essays, and a minimum of two in-class essays per semester. Instruction in the formal research process culminates with an extensive paper second semester. Students are assessed regularly in the area of full-class and small-group discussions, and they are required to deliver one formal speech. Additionally, intensive work with ACT test preparation is used to sharpen reading, editing, and revising skills.

**Junior English (Accelerated)**

ENG381-Semester 1, ENG382-Semester 2

Open to 11

Full Year

*Prerequisite: None*

This course promotes continued development in the areas of reading, literary analysis, argumentation, grammar and usage, oral communication, and research. The course explores American themes and values through the study of both short works of fiction and nonfiction. In addition, the course emphasizes the analysis of poetry, literature, language and the study of rhetoric. The course introduces students to literary criticism as well as building skills related to persuasion and argumentation. This writing intensive course is rigorous in terms of quantity and depth of work. The course emphasizes literary analysis and argumentative writing in order to explore various modes as well as the development of voice, purpose, and audience. The course includes test preparation skills as well as vocabulary building throughout the year.

**Junior AP English Language  
and Composition (Honors)**

ENG371-Semester 1, ENG372-Semester 2

Open to 11

Full Year

*Prerequisite: Sophomore English*

This is a college level course, one that adheres to the objectives articulated by the College Board, and students may obtain college credit by taking the Advanced Placement Examination, a natural culmination of the year long study of language. Upon entering this course, students are expected to be proficient in the areas of reading, literary analysis, argumentation, writing, grammar and usage, oral communication and research. The course emphasizes a variety of British and American texts as a means of critical analysis of language and rhetoric. This writing intensive course focuses on literary analysis, rhetorical analysis, synthesis, and

argumentation, and is more rigorous than the accelerated level in terms of quantity and complexity of the writing assignments. The complexity and regularity of the writing assignments, ranging from process essays to a research paper, requires students to assume an increasing degree of independence as the year progresses. In addition, students write numerous short papers and in-class essays each semester. Students will be assessed regularly in the area of full-class and small-group discussions, as well as formal presentations. ACT, SAT, and AP test preparation are used to sharpen reading, editing, and revising skills. Students also engage in independent and intensive vocabulary study throughout the year.

**Advanced Placement, Themes in  
World Literature (Honors)**

ENG451-Semester 1, ENG452-Semester 2

Open to 12

Full Year

*Prerequisite: None, but most students take Junior Accelerated English or Advanced Placement English Language*

This course will provide students with a college-level literary experience that will foster readiness for the Advance Placement English Literature and Composition Exam. In compliance with College Board requirements, students will study works from the sixteenth century to the present, including works by such authors as Yann Martel, William Shakespeare, Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Joseph Conrad, and Franz Kafka. During the course of the year, students are expected to continue to develop their knowledge of literary terms related to prose and poetry; demonstrate how the parts and techniques of a literary work contribute to the meaning of the work; actively participate in high level analytical discourse; and create cogent, sustained and sophisticated expressions of analytical interpretation in written form. Students should expect to write weekly, including response papers, in-class essays, and process essays. Near the conclusion of the course, students are expected to take the AP English Literature and Composition Exam.

**World Masterpieces (Accelerated)**

ENG431-Semester 1, ENG432-Semester 2

Open to 12

Full Year

*Prerequisite: None*

This two-semester sequence surveys world literature from ancient times to the present, focusing on both western and nonwestern cultures. Students will read poetry, prose, and drama in excerpted and complete forms. In addition to reading the "classics" early in the course's sequence, students will read and study contemporary works that draw their inspiration and form from various earlier periods of literature. Students will read works by such authors as Sophocles, Dante, Shakespeare, Mary Shelley, and Camus. During the course of the year, students engage in close readings of prose and poetry; analyze literary style; actively participate in small and large group discussions; write response papers as well as in-class timed writing essays; write at least two major papers each semester; and develop project-based presentations.

**Please note: Level changes from Advanced Placement Themes in World Literature and/or World Masterpieces into one semester electives are not possible.**

## Semester-Long Electives

Students not taking a full year course (World Masterpieces or Advanced Placement Themes in World Literature) are expected to take two semester electives.

*(College Prep, \*Accelerated Option) indicates that the elective is part of a program in which students who qualify and who agree to predetermined academic expectations may earn accelerated grade weighting instead of the usual college prep grade weighting. Actual determination of level will not take place until the course convenes at the opening of the term. Students will apply and sign an academic agreement within the first two weeks of the term. The agreement will add to existing course expectations in terms of assignments and class participation. This option is available only for the English electives of Creative Writing, Creative Writing Seminar, Media Analysis, Film Genres, and some electives in the Journalism sequence.*

**Some colleges and universities prefer a literature or English skills elective as an admissions requirement. Film, Media, Journalism, Public Speaking, Political Thought and Radio Broadcasting classes fulfill elective requirements for graduation from Stevenson and are accepted as English credit by many, but not all, colleges and universities.**

### Public Speaking (College Prep)

ENG761-Semester 1, ENG762, Semester 2

Open to 10-11-12

One Semester

*Prerequisite: Freshman English*

This course is designed to provide experience and training in public speaking so that students are equipped with the skills essential for success in the business and academic worlds of today and tomorrow. Students learn to tailor a message to suit a particular audience, enhance the message through technology, understand logic and reasoning, develop listening skills, identify propaganda techniques, and understand the physical producers of voice to control and vary tone, volume, pitch and rate. Students participate in workshop-oriented groups to develop the various skills listed above. Students present approximately one speech per week and are responsible for constructive feedback of their peers' speeches.

### Creative Writing

**(College Prep, \*Accelerated Option)**

ENG501-Semester 1, ENG502-Semester 2

Open to 11-12

One Semester

*Prerequisite: None*

Students learn to express their thoughts through writing short stories, poems and plays. Class discussions analyze and implement different writing styles including, but not limited to, fiction, poetry, and drama. The course format is a workshop that includes daily writing. Students will give and receive feedback and peer edit in small and full class groups. Students are also required to read and annotate fiction. The reading will be assessed in a manner that engages students in a process through which they become more aware of how their reading improves over time. All students participate in a variety of approaches to literacy development and to apply what they learn to the art of writing creatively.

### Creative Writing Seminar

**(College Prep, \*Accelerated Option)**

ENG522-Semester 2 Only

Open to 11-12

One Semester

*Prerequisite: Creative Writing*

Students will refine their skills in writing and analyzing stories, plays and poetry. Projects, readings, and assignments will cover various genres that allow students to pursue individual interests. Class discussions focus on the analysis and consideration of different writing styles and genres including, but not limited to, fiction, poetry, and drama. Students explore writing in greater depth than in the pre-requisite course, examining how various genres impact writing style and what it means to create voice in writing. The course format is a workshop that includes daily writing. Students will give and receive feedback and peer edit in small and full class groups. Students are also required to read and annotate fiction. The reading will be assessed in a manner that engages students in a process through which they become more aware of how their reading improves over time. All students participate in a wide variety of approaches to literacy development and apply what they learn to the art of writing creatively.

### Topics in Composition: Media Analysis

**(College Prep, \*Accelerated Option)**

ENG691-Semester 1 Only

Open to 11-12

One Semester

*Prerequisite: None*

This one-semester course is designed to lead students to a critical understanding of the media that surround us. The course focuses on the analysis of three major media industries – advertising, news and entertainment – and the print and non-print messages created by these industries. Students will be required to write weekly response papers, read college-level texts, view a variety of forms of media, participate in class discussions, and complete four analytical projects.

### Topics in Composition: Film Genres

**(College Prep, \*Accelerated Option)**

ENG722-Semester 2 only

Open to 11-12

One Semester

*Prerequisite: None*

This one-semester course is designed to lead students to an understanding of the art of film through the world of film genre, including suspense, comedy, horror, among others. Topics of composition include film techniques, film history, film analysis, and elements of genre conventions. Students will be required to write weekly response papers, view a variety of films, participate in class discussions, and complete four analytical projects.

### Literary Genres: The Short Story

**(College Prep)**

ENG621-Semester 1, ENG622-Semester 2

Open to 12

One Semester

*Prerequisite: None*

This one-semester course is genre-based, focusing on the short story. Some genres will be explored by the class, reading common materials with the teacher guiding students in an examination of the features of the chosen genre; some genres will be explored independently in reading workshop, allowing students to pursue their own interests. The students will read numerous short stories in a semester. The course involves units on detective fiction,

science fiction, Ernest Hemingway, and stories from the current year's *Best American Short Stories* anthology. Students refine their annotation skills as a means of deepening comprehension and analysis. Students participate in a combination of independent and group projects in order to continue refining their literacy skills.

**Political Thought and Its Literature  
(College Prep)**

ENG601-Semester 1, ENG602-Semester 2  
Open to 12 One Semester  
*Prerequisite: U. S. History and Junior English*

This one-semester elective course focuses on the development and evolution of government policy affecting social, economic, political, ethical, and generational issues nationally and globally. Topics are explored and informed through reading, viewing, researching, and discussing fiction and non-fiction literature including novels, historical documents, and pertinent electronic and print mass media artifacts. Students will write essays, research and participate in class debates, and speak before the class both individually and collaboratively on such diverse issues as individual rights versus social responsibility, and balancing civil liberties and national security. An important requirement of the class is fulfilling ten hours of service learning with an approved social service agency and/or political, educational, or denominational organization culminating in an experience-response essay and presentation on the challenges and rewards of community service.

Students may elect to take this course for EITHER a single credit of English or a single credit of Social Studies. PLEASE NOTE: Some colleges may grant only Social Studies credit; others will grant credit in either English or Social Studies.

**Literary Analysis (College Prep)**

ENG611-Semester 1, ENG612-Semester 2  
Open to 12 One Semester  
*Prerequisite: None*

This reading class is designed to help students build their reading and interpretation skills through growing independence. During the semester, students will be required to read four to six books which are incorporated into major projects. Some of these books are common class texts; others are chosen independently from lists. Students will respond to these texts in writing. Course activities also include vocabulary study and exercises to improve reading comprehension.

**Writing for College (College Prep)**

ENG541-Semester 1, ENG542-Semester 2  
Open to 12 One Semester  
*Prerequisite: None*

This class provides students the opportunity to develop their writing through a variety of skills, including but not limited to argumentation, research, and impromptu responses. Using a workshop format, this course focuses on writing as a process, with a strong emphasis on revision. Students will enhance their ability to read and analyze selected models of prose writing, as well as synthesize other authors' ideas. The class will also explore the

growing technology available in school libraries. Student progress is evaluated throughout the semester in a manner that authorizes students to take an active role in their learning. A student's overall performance is evaluated at the end of the semester based on a comprehensive portfolio review.

**Journalistic Writing (College Prep)**

ENG901-Semester 1, ENG902-Semester 2  
Open to 9-10-11-12 One Semester  
*Prerequisite: None*

This course includes interviewing students and adults, writing stories that could get published in the student newspaper or yearbook, and solving problems that typically face reporters and editors. Designed to offer students background and practice in basic journalism concepts and skills, Journalistic Writing units include news gathering/interviewing, news writing, headline writing, copy editing, press law and page design. Oral and written communication skills, as well as critical thinking and problem solving skills, will be exercised.

**Advanced Journalistic Writing (College Prep)**

ENG921-Semester 1, ENG922-Semester 2  
Open to 9-10-11-12 One Semester  
*Prerequisite: Journalistic Writing*

Units in opinion writing (editorial, personal column, reviews), feature writing, sports writing, and in-depth reporting, along with hands-on production of pages and sections of the newspaper and yearbook, prepare students for positions on the student newspaper or yearbook. Students will build on the reporting and writing skills learned in Journalistic Writing. As in the prerequisite course, communication and problem-solving will be stressed.

**Journalism: Newspaper Production (Accelerated)**

ENG951-Semester 1, ENG952-Semester 2  
Open to 10-11-12 Full Year  
*Prerequisite: Advanced Journalistic Writing*

Students do all the work necessary to produce the school newspaper, the Statesman. Staff positions include managing editors, copy editor, design editor, advertising manager, photo manager, page editors (news, opinions, sports, in-depth and feature), reporter and photographer. Staff members gather news, research and write copy, and help complete pages. Students who hope to be photographers are encouraged to take a photography course through the Art Department. Because this is a student publication, all responsibilities, from the planning of the content to the design of an issue to the processing of photos and the completion of pages, are handled by students. After school work is necessary for the completion of each issue. This course may be repeated once for credit.

**Journalism: Yearbook Production (Accelerated)**

ENG991-Semester 1, ENG992-Semester 2  
Open to 10-11-12 Full Year  
*Prerequisite: Journalistic Writing*

Members of the Ambassador staff plan, complete and publish Stevenson's yearbook. Beginning with theme development and section design by the editors, followed by reporting, writing, photography and page layout by all staff members, this annual history of the school year is completed between July and April. Staff members are responsible for all content on their pages. The latest in

theme development, page design and copy writing is emphasized. Meeting deadlines is essential for the book to deliver on time. Attendance at approximately seven Saturday deadline work sessions is required. This course may be repeated once for credit.

**Introduction to Radio Broadcasting**  
**(College Prep) GPA Waiver Option**

ENG983-Semester 1, ENG982-Semester 2

Open to 9-10-11-12

One Semester

*Prerequisite: None*

This one-semester elective course offers students the opportunity to explore and study the history, technological advances, policies, social impact, and current developments in the electronic broadcast mass media, specifically, radio. Students will develop an awareness of rapidly shifting delivery modes in electronic mass media in a modern society increasingly focused on information and entertainment. Students will experience a working knowledge of the daily operations of an FCC-licensed radio station. Extensive class time is dedicated to collaborative productions in the studio of Stevenson's WAES 88.1 FM. Students compose scripts, rehearse, and produce on-air programs individually and collaboratively, ranging from public service announcements and commercial advertisements to variety entertainment, news, and sports programming. Radio Broadcasting demands proficiency in meeting rigorous deadlines, the operation of studio equipment, the mastery of production methods and techniques, and the strict adherence to FCC requirements and procedures.

