**Each elective is a semester .5 credit course unless otherwise stated. English electives can be “mixed and matched,” but they are grouped according to topic.**

## COLLEGE JOURNALISM
**Semester Course**  
**Grades 10, 11, 12 1/2 Unit**  
This course focuses on developing students’ abilities in writing, research and reporting. Students read and evaluate writings of major figures in news articles, features, sports, columns, and editorials. Students will engage in layout and design activities, using programs such as InDesign and Photoshop. This course is offered for college credit to juniors and seniors.

## COLLEGE SOCIAL MEDIA AND BLOGGING
**Semester Course**  
**Grades 10, 11, 12 1/2 Unit**  
This course is designed for students who have an interest in using social media resources as a way to promote a passion, skill, talent, or business plan. Students will experiment with various social media platforms and applications in a safe environment while learning about digital citizenship, media analysis, and laws/ethics. Students will engage in written communication including blog posts, captions, and hashtags, explore visual communication through photographs, product placement, and layout, and hone verbal communication through presentations, speeches, debates, and vlogs. This course is offered for college credit to juniors and seniors.

## CREATIVE WRITING 1
**Semester Course**  
**Grades 10, 11, 12 1/2 Unit**  
This course in creative writing develops students’ abilities in self-expression. Students learn to analyze works of literature, to emulate useful techniques and to establish individual styles. Students write frequently and engage in peer evaluation of the creative writing process.

---

### College Journalism
Do you:
- □ Like to read the newspaper?
- □ Like to watch CNN, MSNBC or other news channels?
- □ Like non-fiction/real life stories?
- □ Care about current events?
- □ Have an interest in politics?
- □ Enjoy defending a position or an argument?
- □ Write for the Hoofbeats or are you planning to become a member of the Hoofbeats’ staff?
- □ Want to earn college credit?

### College Social Media and Blogging
- □ Like to communicate through social media?
- □ Want to create your own website or social media platform?
- □ Have a passion, skill, talent, or business idea that you would like to promote?
- □ Want to earn college credit?

### Creative Writing
Do you:
- □ Keep a journal?
- □ Doodle or jot down lines from songs in your notebook?
- □ Want to experiment with expressing your inner voice in a variety of writing styles?
- □ Want to stray from a more restricted, traditional, literary paragraph format?
- □ Write poetry, stories, or songs?
- □ Contribute to Pegasus or are you interested in contributing to the school’s literary magazine?
COLLEGE PUBLIC SPEAKING
Semester Course
Grades 10, 11, 12 1/2 Unit
Students enrolled in this course will examine and practice the elements of effective oral communication. Emphasis will be placed on the acquisition of effective speaking skills, using peer evaluation and critiquing as important aspects of the learning process. This course is offered for college credit to juniors and seniors.

COLLEGE MEDIA
Semester Course
Grades 10, 11, 12 1/2 Unit
This course involves an in-depth study of television, advertising and film. It examines the effects of television on its viewers and helps students to recognize manipulative advertising tactics in both print and non-print media. Students also analyze film in much the same way as they would literature, discussing the director as the artistic creator. Student assignments may include analytical essays, opinion papers, and creative projects. Students are expected to research pertinent topics. This course is offered for college credit to juniors and seniors.

College Public Speaking
Are you interested in:
- Learning how to speak in public effectively?
- Overcoming fears about speaking to a group?
- Learning how to use video making computer programs such as Windows Movie Maker or Photo Story?
- Creating and then verbally expressing an argument?
- Earning college credit?

College Media
- Learning how television, art, ads, magazines, and movies express the social climate of a specific time period?
- Learning how film, advertisements, commercials, and news/entertainment shows influence today’s society?
- Earning college credit?
STRANGER FICTION: Heroes and Monsters of the Past, Present, and Future
Semester Course
Grades 10, 11, 12 1/2 Unit
The course will explore science fiction as a genre that answers the overarching question, “What does it mean to be human?” Course material will include stories of ancient beasts, heroes and gods, aliens, time travel, robots, the supernatural, horror, fantasy, alternative realities and re-animation. By contrasting humans with something beyond the realm of normal human experience, through the use of advanced technology or otherwise, the genre attempts to define the human experience. Literature, films, and television shows are examined through lenses of cultural, national and scientific perspectives. Some concepts of psychology, anthropology, physics, biology, chemistry and earth science are relevantly discussed.

VOICES FROM THE PAST: A STUDY Year Course
OF GENOCIDE IN HISTORY
1/2 Unit English AND 1/2 Unit Social Studies
Grades 10, 11, 12
This interdisciplinary course will focus on the Holocaust and other past and present examples of genocide. Students will use literature, first person narratives and historical accounts in order to understand the causes of genocide, the rise of hate crimes and, most importantly, ways to prevent “man’s inhumanity to man” now and in the future. Students will develop an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of individuals, organizations and governments. This one-period, yearlong course is a Social Studies and English elective and is open to students in 10th, 11th and 12th grades. This course is also listed under Social Studies.
SAT/ACT Strategies - English
Semester Course
Grades 10, 11, 12 1/2 Unit
This course will focus on the verbal skills essential for success on the SAT and ACT exams, with the ultimate goal of preparing students for the rigors of college-level reading and writing expectations. It is also designed to enhance the literacy skills of college-bound students through the development of critical reading, speed reading and time management.

Do you want to:
- Improve your reading comprehension?
- Increase your vocabulary?
- Strengthen your grammar usage?
- Practice SAT sentence completions, critical reading, improving sentences, and improving paragraphs?
- Learn test taking strategies such as time management and the process of elimination?

AP Capstone Program

AP CAPSTONE is an innovative diploma program from the College Board that equips students with the independent research, collaborative teamwork, and communication skills necessary for college and beyond. AP Capstone is built on the foundation of two AP Courses offered through the English Department - AP Seminar and AP Research - and is designed to complement and enhance the in-depth, discipline-specific study experienced in other Advanced Placement courses. The AP Capstone curriculum fosters inquiry, research, collaboration, and writing skills through the intensive investigation of topics from multiple perspectives. Students likely to be successful in this program will demonstrate high levels of self-motivation, an ability to work well with peers, and exemplary time management skills.

AP Seminar is an additional option for English credit in 10th grade. Students who take a two-course sequence for AP Capstone, beginning with AP Seminar in the 10th grade and continuing with AP Research in the 11th grade, are eligible to receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate upon receiving a score of 3 or higher in both classes. Students seeking the AP Capstone Diploma will be required to take four additional AP courses of their choosing, in any subject area, and score a 3 or higher on each subsequent exam.

AP SEMINAR - AP Seminar is a critical reading and introductory research course that provides sustained practice of investigating issues from multiple perspectives and cultivates student writing abilities so they can craft, communicate and defend evidence-based arguments. Students are empowered to collect and analyze information with accuracy and precision and are assessed through a team project and presentation, an individual written essay and presentation, and a written exam. Students can take AP Seminar in lieu of English 2 or English 2 Honors.
- Students are required to complete a summer assignment.

AP RESEARCH - In AP Research, students develop the skills and discipline necessary to conduct independent research to produce and defend a scholarly academic thesis. The course is the second in the AP Capstone series that allows students to deeply explore an academic topic, problem, or issue of individual interest, and through this inquiry, students design, plan, and conduct a year-long, research-based investigation with teacher mentoring. The course culminates in an academic thesis paper of approximately 5,000 words and a presentation, performance, or exhibition with an oral defense. Students will take AP Research as an English elective in 11th grade.
- Prerequisite: Successful completion of AP Seminar
- Students are required to complete a summer assignment.