
ENGLISH

COURSES OFFERED

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PSSA READING PREPARATION

Full Year/Part Time
Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

No. 1001
Credit 0.5

This course is designed to prepare students to achieve at the Proficient or Advanced level on the reading portion of the PSSA examination at the 11th grade level. Students will utilize a variety of resources, such as Study Island, 4SIGHT Benchmark Assessments, PSSA preparation workbooks, and the North Allegheny Reading curriculum to review and to be introduced to concepts being tested on the PSSA. The topics covered will reinforce and supplement what the students are learning in their core reading courses and align these concepts with the eligible contents that will be assessed on the PSSA. Students will be given the opportunity to gauge their progress and predict their success on the PSSA by using the 4SIGHT Benchmark Assessments along with other assessments. Students may test out of the course if they achieve a proficient score on equivalency tests given at the end of the first semester and at the end of the school year.

Criteria for Selection -

Scoring at the Basic or Below Basic level on the most recent Reading portion of the PSSA.

PSSA WRITING PREPARATION

Full Year/Part Time
Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

No. 1002
Credit 0.5

This course is designed to prepare students to achieve at the Proficient or Advanced level on the writing portion of the PSSA examination at the 11th grade level. Students will utilize a variety of resources, such as Study Island, 4SIGHT Benchmark Assessments, PSSA preparation workbooks, and the North Allegheny Writing curriculum to review and to be introduced to concepts being tested on the PSSA. The topics covered will reinforce and supplement what the students are learning in their core reading courses and align these concepts with the eligible contents that will be assessed on the PSSA. Students will be given the opportunity to gauge their progress and predict their success on the PSSA by using the 4SIGHT Benchmark Assessments along with other assessments. Students may test out of the course if they achieve a proficient score on equivalency tests given at the end of the first semester and at the end of the school year.

Criteria for Selection -

Scoring at the Basic or Below Basic level on the most recent Writing portion of the PSSA.

ESSENTIAL ENGLISH

Full Year/Full Time
Grade 9 Phase 1

No. 1209
Credit 1.0

Students who are experiencing deficiencies, in reading, writing, grammar, speaking, listening, and organizational skills will find this course is designed to meet their individual needs. Students participate in individual and group structured activities that improve reading comprehension, sentence and paragraph writing, grammar problems, organizational skills, and vocabulary and speech skills. Students

experience a team approach to learning and materials have been selected based on students' abilities. Phase 1 students must take this course.

Criteria for Selection -

This course is reserved for students who qualify for and are accepted into the IMPACT Program.

BASIC ENGLISH 1

Full Year/Full Time
Grade 9 Phase II

No. 1409

Credit 1.0

The Basic English 1 curriculum emphasizes improvement in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and critical thinking. Students develop skills in formulating clearly written sentences, effective oral communication, and the correct usage of grammar. Vocabulary development and word recognition skills are developed throughout the course. In addition, students participate in library and career opportunity programs. The study of literature emphasizes the analysis of short stories, an introduction to drama, and an in-depth study of a novel.

Criteria for Selection -

1. Recommendation of English teacher.
2. CAT Achievement test scores.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Full Year/Full Time

Grades 9, 10
Grades 11, 12

No. 1009
No. 1009

English as a Second Language is an academic discipline that is designed to teach English Language Learners academic language and social skills, as well as cultural aspects of the English language necessary to succeed in the academic environment. English as a Second Language involves teaching reading, writing, speaking, and listening at appropriate developmental and proficiency levels with little or no use of the native language. English as a Second Language course replaces a student's required participation in English and is aligned with PA Academic Standards. Students must meet District criteria and undergo an evaluation to determine eligibility for the program. Based on the Basic Education Circular of July, 2001, Non-English speaking students receive 10 to 15 hours of ESL instruction per week, Beginning Level students 10 hours per week, Intermediate Level students 5 to 7 1/2 hours per week and Advanced Level students 5 hours per week.

ACADEMIC LITERACY

Semester/Full Time
Grades 9, 10
Grades 11, 12

Credit .5
No. 1016
No. 1016

This course, designed to assist students in the areas of reading, vocabulary development, comprehension, fluency, and writing, is based on the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Reading and Writing. Reading and writing skill development, independent reading and writing for life long learning, and motivation are three interactive components of

this literacy-centered course. Online learning is the foundation of this course. Individualized and small group instruction will also be provided.

Criteria for Selection -

1. Recommendation by the English teacher.
2. PSSA Scores in the Basic and Below Basic categories.
3. Iowa Tests of Basic Skills.

ENGLISH 1 **No. 1509**
Full Year/Full Time
Grade 9 Phase III **Credit 1.0**

In this college preparatory communications course, students develop their reading, writing, listening, speaking, and critical thinking skills. To enhance vocabulary skills, students familiarize themselves with words from supplemental texts and from within the contexts of various reading assignments. They also study grammar, usage, and mechanics in application to reading and composition. Students read and analyze fiction and drama. All students study *Romeo and Juliet* and *Inherit the Wind*. Long fiction works can include *Of Mice and Men*, *Animal Farm*, *Tuesdays with Morrie*, and *The Red Badge of Courage*. In a workshop setting, students apply their knowledge of the library and its technology by exploring careers.

Criteria for Selection -

1. Recommendation of English teacher.
2. Iowa Tests of Basic Skills.

HONORS ENGLISH 1 **No. 1109**
Full Year/Full Time **Honors Wt.**
Grade 9 Phase IV **Credit 1.0**

In this advanced course, students read, analyze, and compose essays about challenging works of American and British literature. They also apply rules of grammar and mechanics to their writing. In addition, students focus on supplementary vocabulary and integrate these vocabulary skills into their reading and writing. Throughout the year, the students explore public speaking, library orientation, and career opportunities.

Criteria for Selection -

1. Recommendation of English teacher.
2. English grade - 'A'.
3. Overall QPA of 3.4 or higher.
4. Percentiles in the high 80's to 90's in the English-related areas on the most recently available IOWA Tests of Basic Skills scores.
5. Successful completion of writing sample.

ESSENTIAL ENGLISH 2 **No. 1210**
Full Year/Full Time
Grade 10 Phase I **Credit 1.0**

In Essential English 2, students who have difficulty in skills related to reading, writing, speaking, and listening focus on improving those areas. Students participate in directed reading activities, guided paragraph writing, and in the use of context clues, roots, and prefixes to increase vocabulary and usage. Students increase reading comprehension and listening and writing skills through high interest literature, including short stories, non-fiction, drama, poetry, and the in-depth study of a novel. Students practice these basic skills, as well as organizational skills, in a highly structured atmosphere. All materials are geared to students' interests and ability levels.

Criteria for Selection -

This course is reserved for students who qualify and are accepted into the IMPACT Program.

BASIC ENGLISH 2 **No. 1410**
Full Year/Full Time
Grade 10 Phase II **Credit 1.0**

Basic English 2 is a composition and literature continuation in which students reinforce their listening, speaking, reading, writing, and critical thinking skills within a supportive environment. In composition, students emphasize the varieties of sentence structure, paragraphing, mechanics, and usage, and responses to literature, and focus special attention on spelling, vocabulary, and context usage. Students study the short story, poetry, non-fiction, a novel, and both a contemporary and a Shakespearean play.

Criteria for Selection -

1. Recommendation of English teacher.
2. Iowa Tests of Basic Skills.
3. Successful completion of 9th grade English.

ENGLISH 2 **No. 1510**
Full Year/Full Time
Grade 10 Phase III **Credit 1.0**

English 2 promotes a comprehensive study of composition and literature in which students enhance their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Students standardized test preparation, vocabulary building, and grammar study. In composition, students write creative pieces as well as multi-paragraph essays that are persuasive, informative, analytical, and utilize research. In Literature units, students read fiction, nonfiction, drama, and poetry.

Criteria for Selection -

1. Recommendation of English teacher.
2. Successful completion of 9th grade English.

HONORS ENGLISH 2
Full Year/Full Time
Grade 10 Phase IV

No. 1110
Honors Wt.
Credit 1.0

Honors English 2 is a course designed for students with superior reading and writing skills with an interest in a challenging, accelerated pace. In this class, students will build upon and complement the critical and analytical skills developed in Honors English 1 (grade 9). Students undertake a comparative analysis of World Literature, an intensive vocabulary study, SAT preparation, grammar, and an introduction to philosophy. Thus, students gain the necessary background for continued study in Honors or Advanced Placement English. Only students who meet course criteria may apply.

Criteria for Selection -

1. Recommendation of English teacher.
2. 'A' or high 'B' English grades.
3. 3.40 Quality Point Average.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS
Semester/Full Time
Grade 9, 10

No. 1204
Credit .5

In Communication Skills, students review, develop, and maintain the listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills they need to be effective communicators. Students also learn how to improve their study habits by practicing the techniques of time management and goal setting. Students who are experiencing difficulty in applying reading skills to their course work would benefit from this course.

NEWSPAPER 9, 10

Grade 9
Grade 10
Full Year/Full Time

No. 1403
No. 1604
Credit 1.0

In this workshop course, students will publish the Intermediate High School newspaper, *NA EYE*. Students will write features, news stories, and investigative reports. They will also have the opportunity to draw editorial cartoons and take photographs for the paper. They will use the computer to layout and edit the paper before final publication.

Criteria for Selection - Application and teacher recommendation due to limited class size.

YEARBOOK 9, 10

Grade 9
Grade 10
Full Year/Full Time

No. 1503
No. 1503
Credit 1.0

In this workshop course, students gain first hand experience in planning, writing, organizing, and laying out materials essential to the theme, development, and publication of the Intermediate High School Yearbook, *THE TIGER TALE*.

Criteria for Selection - Application/project/teacher recommendation.

TELEVISION PRODUCTION
Semester/Full Time
Grades 10

No. 1910
Credit .5

Students will have the opportunity to explore TV Production in this course. They will learn the basic aspects of production including script writing, directing, editing, camera techniques, and special effects. The class is open to any student interested in communications, public relations, acting, or technical production.

Criteria for Selection - Application/interview due to limited class size.

LEADERSHIP 1

Semester/Full Time
Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

No. 1905
Credit .5

Leadership is a lifetime skill students will need to apply to succeed in school, on the job, or in any organization. Students who currently recognize the role that leadership plays in their lives or who seek more involvement in activities, learn the skills necessary to be successful in leadership roles. Students explore units in self-esteem, leadership styles and theories, goal setting, project planning, time management, stress management, and speech presentations, thus identifying individual strengths and focusing on suggestions for improvement in leadership positions.

Criteria for Selection -

Application/interview with teacher.

LEADERSHIP 2

Semester/Full Time
Grades 10, 11, 12

No. 1906
Credit .5

Using a team approach, Leadership 2 students apply learned Leadership 1 skills as leaders and followers in school and community projects. Students explore new units and experiences in motivation, group dynamics, team building, decision-making, problem-solving, committee structure, and management. Student leaders experience numerous application activities through in-class projects and "hands-on" experiences.

Criteria for Selection - Successful completion of Leadership 1 and recommendation of teacher.

FORENSICS

Semester/Full Time
Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

No. 1907
Credit .5

Forensics is the art of public speaking. In this course, students become confident speakers by practicing basic speaking techniques. Students will present a variety of speeches, including prose reading, impromptu/extemporaneous speaking, dramatic/humorous interpretation, and Lincoln-Douglas Debate. Student participation in competitive tournaments is encouraged, but not required. *This course is highly recommended for all levels.*

Criteria for Selection - None.

INTRODUCTION TO THEATER **No. 1909**
Semester/Full Time
Grade 9, 10 **Credit .5**

In Introduction to Theater, students explore five major aspects of the theater: history of the theatre, acting, stagecraft, costumes and make-up, and audition preparation. Students participate in activities such as making a history-of-theatre timeline, examining a script for stage directions, blocking, studying body language, pantomiming, doing improvisations, creating a set design, and engaging in other drama activities. Students also practice vocal variety of pitch and volume, and choral reading, and then apply learned skills to numerous classroom performances and presentations. Students must practice some memorization skills.

Criteria for Selection - None.

ESSENTIAL ENGLISH 3 **No. 1211**
Full Year/Full Time
Grade 11 Phase I **Credit 1.0**

Students in this course have the opportunity to improve their reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking skills through their study of literature, grammar, and composition. Students read high-interest short stories and novels which serve as models for a wide variety of writing assignments. Students also study problem-solving strategies at each stage of the writing process. As an option, students may be provided with research time to explore educational and career possibilities beyond North Allegheny that are of interest to them. Students who are recommended for this course should also register for Fundamentals of Democracy (No. 2211). This course is required for Phase 1 students. A component of the course is the American Authors Research Paper, intended for students to demonstrate their aptitude through the detailed analysis of an author's life, and significant works of literature.

SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE AUTHORS PAPER IS A GRADUATION REQUIREMENT OF THE NORTH ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT.

Criteria for Selection -

Recommendation of English teacher and School Counselor.

LITERATURE 3 **No. 1611**
Semester/Full Time
Grade 11 Phase II **Credit .5**

Literature 3 is a course of primarily American Literature designed for students who have experienced reading and/or writing difficulties. Students encounter literature of a high literary merit, as well as a relevant interest level. They study and analyze collections of short stories, poetry, at least one complete play, and a novel. Students in Phase 2 are required to take this course. A component of the course is the American Authors Research Paper, intended for students to demonstrate their aptitude through the detailed analysis of an author's life, literary reviews, and significant works of literature.

SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE AUTHORS PAPER IS A GRADUATION REQUIREMENT OF THE NORTH ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT.

Criteria for Selection -

Recommendation of English teacher.

WRITING 3 **No. 1411**
Semester/Full Time
Grade 11 Phase II **Credit .5**

In Writing 3, students continually emphasize the basic skills and fundamental competencies of writing. Using the writing process, students generate and organize ideas, develop support for topic sentences and thesis sentences, revise the first draft writing, proofread for mechanics, and publish or share final writing. Students in Phase 2 are required to take this course. Students develop topics by using description, narration, exposition, and persuasion. They are encouraged to use the computer for drafting and revising. As an option, students may be provided with research time to explore educational and career possibilities beyond North Allegheny that are of interest to them.

Criteria for Selection -

Recommendation of English teacher.

AMERICAN LITERATURE 3 **No. 1711**
Semester/Full Time
Grade 11 Phase III **Credit .5**

In American Literature, a survey course, motivated college-bound students read, interpret, and analyze poetry, essays, short stories, drama, and a novel - from the Puritan era to the Modern period. In response to their reading, students develop skills for speaking and listening critically, analyzing literature, expanding their vocabularies and refining their writing skills. A component of the course is the American Authors Research Paper, intended for students to demonstrate their aptitude through the detailed analysis of an author's life, literary reviews, and significant works of literature.

SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE AUTHORS PAPER IS A GRADUATION REQUIREMENT OF THE NORTH ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT.

Criteria for Selection -

Recommendation of English teacher.

COMPOSITION 3 **No. 1511**
Semester/Full Time
Grade 11 Phase III **Credit .5**

College preparatory students will find this course effective for writing well-developed, well-organized, and unified compositions and essays. Using the writing process, students develop essays of description, narration, exposition, and persuasion. As an option, students may be provided with research time to explore educational and career possibilities beyond North Allegheny that are of interest to them. To respond to literature, students write a critical review or literary analysis. Students also develop a thesis statement

and multi-paragraph format for their compositions. By analyzing and integrating factors of writing, grammar, word choice, vocabulary study, sentence structure, and usage, students improve their writing styles and techniques.

Criteria for Selection -

Recommendation of English teacher.

AP ENGLISH 3:

LANGUAGE & COMPOSITION

Full Year/Full Time

Grade 11, 12 Phase IV

No. 1011

AP Wt.

Credit 1.0

This year-long, college-level course, intended for top-performing juniors, develops the skills of argumentation, rhetorical analysis, and critical reading. The pace is aggressive, and a majority of each semester's assessments are in-class, timed essays. Proficiency in grammar, confidence with timed writings, a desire for a challenging, intellectual atmosphere, and the ability to manage a significant amount of outside reading, characterize the qualified AP English student. The literature of the course reflects a diverse sampling of genres and historical eras. Featured authors in the first semester include, but are not limited to, Plato, Sophocles, Shakespeare, Swift, Voltaire, Kafka, and Orwell. The second semester features classic authors of American literature – Emerson, Thoreau, Dickinson, Twain, Fitzgerald, Steinbeck, Hemingway, Frost, Salinger – and culminates in the American Authors Research Paper. The course also features a persuasive speaking unit, an ongoing study of SAT-level vocabulary, and a mandatory summer assignment in preparation for the first week of class. At the end of the year, successful students are strongly encouraged to take the Advanced Placement English Exam and qualify for college credits and/or course placement.

SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE AUTHORS PAPER IS A GRADUATION REQUIREMENT OF THE NORTH ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT.

Criteria for Selection -

1. Successful completion of Honors English 2 is required.
2. Recommendation of the Honors English 2 teacher.
3. 'A' in Honors English 2.
4. 3.60 Quality Point Average.

HONORS ENGLISH 3

Full Year/Full Time

Grade 11 Phase IV

No. 1015

Honors Wt.

Credit 1.0

Successful completion of Honors English 2 provides preparation for the extensive responsibilities of Honors English 3. This challenging, year-long junior course is designed for exceptional language arts students interested in enhancing their literary analysis abilities and composition skills. The focus on American Literature is highlighted by critical reviews and analyses that demand intense and significantly high levels of outside reading. Authors studied include Buck, Cisneros, Fitzgerald, Hemingway, Hurston, Miller, Kerouac, and Steinbeck. A required component of this

course is the American Authors Research Paper, intended for students to demonstrate their aptitude through the detailed analysis of an author's life, literary reviews, and significant works of literature. **SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE AUTHORS PAPER IS A GRADUATION REQUIREMENT OF THE NORTH ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT.** Students continue to use The Writing Process for the introduction and enhancement of multi-paragraph essays in styles ranging from narration and description to exposition and persuasion. Additionally, students complete another supplemental research unit by investigating career and college options through a variety of online and traditional sources. The college application essay and a job application cover letter are the writing focus of this unit. As an option, students may be provided with research time to explore educational and career possibilities beyond North Allegheny that are of interest to them. Intensive integration of vocabulary skills, public speaking, and word usage are key components of this course. Only students who meet the course criteria may apply.

Criteria for Selection -

1. Successful completion of Honors English 2 is REQUIRED.
2. Recommendation of Honors English 2 teacher.
3. 'A' or high 'B' final Honors English 2 grade. (No waivers granted for Honors English 2 grades lower than 'B'.)
4. 3.50 Quality Point Average.

ESSENTIAL ENGLISH 4

Full Year/Full Time

Grade 12 Phase I

No. 1212

Credit 1.0

Students refine their writer's craft by engaging in individual and group activities that reinforce their reading, writing, critical thinking, and speaking skills. Students read literature ranging from traditional and contemporary classics to newspaper and magazine articles. Students who are recommended for this course should also register for Fundamentals of Democracy II (2212). English Lab 4 is required for Phase 1 students.

Criteria for Selection -

Recommendation of English teacher and School Counselor.

LITERATURE 4

Semester/Full Time

Grade 12 Phase II

No. 1512

Credit .5

In Literature 4, students read a number of thought-provoking plays, novels, short stories, essays, and poems. English and World Literature form the basis for the readings. Class discussion and essay writing provide ways for students to interpret, analyze, and synthesize their thoughts about literature. Students benefit from the supportive environment of this course. Students in Phase 2 are required to take this course.

Criteria for Selection -

Recommendation of English teacher.

WRITING 4 **No. 1412****Semester/Full Time****Grade 12 Phase II****Credit .5**

In this course, students complete the cycle started in Phase 2 English and further the writing process and their craftsmanship. Students conclude a variety of experiences in writing description, narration, exposition, persuasion, and literary analysis. Students also continuously reinforce and apply grammar, sentence structure, word usage, language, and style skills to their integrated writing throughout the course. Students continue working on the computer to draft and publish their compositions.

Criteria for Selection -

Recommendation of English teacher.

ENGLISH LITERATURE **No. 1712****Semester/Full Time****Grade 12 Phase III****Credit .5**

In English Literature, students study British writers from the Anglo-Saxon period to Modern times. Students critically analyze the literature in conjunction with the social, historical, and cultural forces which influence writers. Students also use and integrate critical thinking, reading, listening, speaking, and composing throughout the course. Phase 3 students are required to complete English Literature, a challenging, college-preparatory course.

Criteria for Selection -

Recommendation of English teacher.

COMPOSITION 4 **No. 1612****Semester/Full Time****Grade 12 Phase III****Credit .5**

In Composition 4, an advanced writing course for college-bound seniors, students further their experience and skill using the writing process. Students concentrate on expository writing (argumentation, persuasion, literary analysis, and narration) and develop critical thinking skills, mechanics, and their writer's voice. Phase 3 students are required to complete this challenging, college-preparatory course.

Criteria for Selection -

Recommendation of English teacher.

AP ENGLISH 4:**LITERATURE & COMPOSITION****Full Year/Full Time****Grade 12 Phase IV****No. 1012****AP Wt.****Credit 1.0**

Advanced Placement English is a college-level course planned for students with superior reading and writing skills as well as an interest in a challenging, fast-paced environment. In this class, students build upon and complement the critical and analytical skills developed in AP Language and Composition (Grade 11), and students frequently write about literary selections covering a wide range of authors and genres. Seventy-five percent of the course grade entails

timed, in-class essay writing; such emphasis on writing is reinforced with intense studies of language, structure, the nature of literary analysis, literary theory, etc. Authors represent a World Literature perspective, and works by Dante, Milton, Conrad, Dostoyevsky, Camu, Patton, etc. are critically analyzed. There is a very strong emphasis on Shakespeare, and students will read at least four plays, including Hamlet, Othello, and King Lear. The course also emphasizes the purpose of poetry. Poetic language, devices, form, and function are carefully studied. In May, students are strongly encouraged to take the Advanced Placement English test and qualify for college credits and/or course placement.

Criteria for Selection -

1. Completion of AP 3 Language and Composition is REQUIRED.
2. Recommendation of junior AP teacher.
3. 'A' or high 'B' final in AP English class. (No waivers granted for English grades less than 'B').
4. 3.60 Quality Point Average.

HONORS ENGLISH 4**Full Year/Full Time****Grade 12, Phase IV****No. 1017****Honors Wt.****Credit 1.0**

Successful completion of the Honors English 3 class forms the basis for students to continue their rigorous explorations of language and literature in Honors English 4. This year-long senior course is designed for distinguished language arts students interested in fortifying their skills in preparation for further, extensive study at the college level. In the literature segment, British writers from the Anglo-Saxon period to the Modern times are critically analyzed in relation to their cultural and historical influences. Intense and higher levels of outside readings will be core components of this course. Composition assignments build sequentially upon the Writing Process, as students work to advance their expository skills. Additionally, literature-based compositions will be used regularly as evaluation tools. Intensive integration of vocabulary skills, public speaking, and word usage round out the components of this course. Only students who meet the course criteria may apply.

Criteria for Selection -

1. Successful completion of Honors English 3 is REQUIRED.
2. Recommendation of Honors English 3 teacher.
3. 'A' or 'High B' final grade in Honors English 3. (No waivers granted for Honors English 3 grades lower than 'B').
4. 3.50 Quality Point Average.

NEWSPAPER 11, 12**Grade 11****Grade 12****Full Year/Full Time****No. 1803****No. 1404****Credit 1.0**

In this workshop course, students have the opportunity to learn the skills of a journalist as they publish the *North Star*, the Senior High School Newspaper. These young

correspondents study first amendment issues and ethical reporting. Students will better their writing skills and learn how to take and edit digital photos all while producing news, features, editorials, and human interest stories. They also work with a student team to lay out the pages of each edition.

Criteria for Selection -

Recommendation from an English teacher.

YEARBOOK 11, 12

Grade 11	No. 1903
Grade 12	No. 1504
Full Year/Full Time	Credit 1.0

In this workshop course, students plan, write, organize, and design the High School Yearbook, *SAFARI*, under the supervision of the Yearbook Advisor. Students with previous yearbook experience and advanced skills in writing, photography, and computer literacy are encouraged to enroll in this class. Due to the workload and multiple production deadlines, after-school and weekend meetings are required. **Students must complete an application form and submit it to the Yearbook Advisor during an interview process before they may enroll in the course.** After the advisor approves the application, students then complete the course selection sheet which is later processed through the School Counseling Office.

Criteria for Selection -

One year of yearbook experience; application/interview with advisor.

CREATIVE WRITING	No. 1604
Semester/Full Time	
Grades 11, 12 Phases I-IV	Credit .5

Creative Writers explore self-expression by exposing themselves to a variety of poetic structures and techniques. They learn the nature of sounds, structures, and ideas expressed in poetry by reading and discussing both contemporary and traditional works. With the assistance of their peers, students compile a collection of original poetry that they share in class. Students conduct extensive peer editing sessions, maintain a writing journal throughout the course, and read and respond to a wide collection of poetry. Students with a strong background in English/Language Arts are encouraged to take the course and should expect to read and write daily during the semester.

Criteria for Selection - None

ADVANCED CREATIVE WRITING	No. 1704
Semester/Full Time	
Grades 11, 12 Phase III-IV	Credit .5

Advanced Creative Writers move on to an in-depth pursuit of creative expression, utilizing multiple genres as vehicles for delivering their perceptions. Free verse, fixed-form poetry, the short story, and the one-act play allow students to expand their portfolios and refine their styles for

publication. Writers share their work through peer editing. Serious students select this offering, expecting to produce high quality creative writing, tapping into personal resources of independence and maturity.

Criteria for Selection -

Successful completion of Creative Writing (1604) and recommendation of Creative Writing teacher.

RESEARCH WRITING	No. 1804
Semester/Full Time	
Grades 11, 12 Phase III-IV	Credit .5

In the workshop setting for this course in composing research papers, students stress two distinct areas: they learn the skills necessary to utilize modern library technologies, and they critically review various works of literature and media. In a supportive environment, students participate in the writing process of brainstorming a topic, generating a bibliography, constructing an outline and draft, and finalizing a product. Students also gain valuable time using computers for research and for drafting papers. In making the transition from the requirements of a high school paper to the demands of a college paper, students feel more confident because of their success in this course.

Criteria for Selection -

Recommendation of English teacher.

SPEECH	No. 1805
Semester/Full Time	
Grades 11, 12 Phase II-III-IV	Credit .5

In an interactive setting designed to develop public speaking skills and techniques, students will also work on acquiring listening skills. The students present a wide variety of speeches ranging from informative and persuasive to impromptu and issues-oriented. Students will also explore how modern technology can shape and assist their presentations. Additionally, students will learn how to tailor their speeches to meet the needs of a specific audience. College-bound students find this an excellent introduction to the basics of public speaking while general students develop a strong sense of confidence. Although not required, **THIS COURSE IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED FOR ALL LEVELS.**

Criteria for Selection - None.

DRAMA	No. 1705
Semester/Full Time	
Grades 11, 12 Phase II-III-IV	Credit .5

This literature course is for students interested in theater. With very little acting required, students read and interpret a variety of well-known works from both traditional and contemporary authors. Students discuss current television shows and motion pictures and participate in field trips to live stage plays. Students in all theatre courses are encouraged to work on the school play and musical, but they are not required to do so.

Criteria for Selection - None.

ACTING 1 **No. 1405**
Semester/Full Time
Grades 11, 12 Phases II-III-IV **Credit .5**

Similar to the Speech course in its “learn by doing” format, students will experience simple loosening up exercises (charades, pantomimes, improvisations) and polished monologues and scenes. For major grades, students prepare approximately four published pieces. As in the Drama course, students experience some films, TV, and field trips. Students may wish to take Drama prior to or concurrently with Acting 1. Students in all theatre courses are encouraged to work on the school play and musical, but they are not required to do so.

Criteria for Selection - None.

ACTING 2 **No. 1505**
Semester/Full Time
Grades 11, 12 Phases II-III-IV **Credit .5**

In this course geared as a continuation and upgrade of the skills learned in Acting 1, students prepare audition material and enhance performance levels. Those interested in theatre as an avocation benefit from Acting 2. In the culminating activity, students form an acting troupe responsible for mounting an actual production. Students in all theatre courses are encouraged to work on the school play and musical, but they are not required to do so.

Criteria for Selection - None.

MODERN MEDIA **No. 1904**
Semester/Full Time
Grades 11, 12 Phases II-IV **Credit .5**

In this interactive, project-oriented class, students will be provided with an overview of media, explore media history, and utilize practical applications designed to make them aware of their own media preferences. Students will explore the various media to determine the influences on modern society. Areas explored include classic films, TV, the recording industry, magazines and newspapers, the advertising industry, and the digital technology environment (the Internet, MP3s, etc.). The course covers why and how we share information and the way in which technology has driven the process. The course presents opportunities for both discussion and presentations, and culminates with an Independent Study Project that demonstrates mastery of a specific media.

Criteria for Selection - None.

LEADERSHIP 1 **No. 1905**
Semester/Full Time
Grades 11, 12 **Credit .5**
 (see description under Grades 9/10)

LEADERSHIP 2 **No. 1906**
Semester/Full Time
Grades 11, 12 **Credit .5**
 (see description under Grades 9/10)

FORENSICS **No. 1907**
 (see description under grades 9/10)

HONORS ARGUMENT **No. 1908**
Semester/Full Time **Honors Wt.**
Grades 11, 12 **Credit .5**

This course is designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of argument. Students will construct, present and refute arguments, and develop critical thinking skills necessary for worthwhile evaluation and criticism of argument. Students will become more articulate as well as sensitive to the intricacies of argument and debate.

Students will demonstrate their skills in research and argumentation through performance activities, including, but not limited to, Student Congress, L/D Debate, Mock Trial, and Policy Team Debate.

Argument is offered as a College in High School class in cooperation with the University of Pittsburgh. Students may choose to receive three college credits from the University at the prevailing tuition rates.

Criteria for Selection -

A ‘B+’ (88%) average in English Classes.

An English teacher’s recommendation.

TELEVISION PRODUCTION 1	No. 0603
Semester/Full Time	
Grades 11, 12	Credit .5

Students have the opportunity to experience the real world of television production in a quality, multi-camera production studio. Students learn all aspects of production from script writing, directing, story board preparation, audio production, camera techniques, and special effects. The class is open to any student interested in communications, photography, journalism, public relations, acting, and technical stage production.

There are no prerequisites for this class. However, both Television Production I and Television Production II are required prerequisites for enrollment in Advanced TV.

TELEVISION PRODUCTION 2	No. 0703
Semester/Full Time	
Grades 11, 12	Credit .5

Having mastered the basic principles and techniques of production in TV 1, students will have the opportunity to improve their skills by engaging in more complex television productions. There will be greater technical demands and the need to demonstrate the ability to cope with the responsibility related to writing, planning, directing, and producing. A variety of news, information, and entertainment programs that are produced by these classes will air on the NATV Cable Broadcast. This course offers career exploration and assistance in making educated decisions on future occupational possibilities in the field of communications and media.

Note: Both Television Production I and Television Production II are required prerequisites for enrollment in Advanced TV.

Criteria for Selection -

Successful completion of Television Production 1 (0603).

ADVANCED TELEVISION PRODUCTION	No. 0612
Semester/Full Time	
Grade 12	Credit .5

This is a fall semester course that will offer seniors the opportunity to participate in a heavily production oriented class. Students selected for this production team must have mastered the basic production techniques in TV 1 and TV 2 and have proven themselves to be self motivated individuals, capable of producing programming for the NATV Cable Broadcast. Students who are considering a career in communications should consider taking this course.

Criteria for Selection -

Successful completion of Television Production I (0603) and Television Production II (0703).