By-class English/Language Arts descriptions and expectations:

**English 12**

Seniors spend most of the first semester reviewing grammar and composition skills for college level readiness—even college placement tests. Their challenge is in the length and difficulty of sentence structures such as phrases and clauses. Nevertheless, they also have usage and mechanics for improving speaking and writing which will encompass the first part of the second semester, too.

To improve vocabulary, we spend fifteen units on Latin roots and combining them. They use these to ‘take apart’ words without using a dictionary and, thereby, going across-curriculum to help them in social science and natural science classes, too. The second semester find them also adding nine units of Greek roots and bases.

During the second semester, the seniors read British literature, beginning with Beowulf and going past the Renaissance period in which the highlight is Shakespeare’s Macbeth. There will also be exposure to other British authors and to period pieces but these are not in their anthology and will be supplemented.

**English 11** Juniors also spend most of their first semester reviewing English grammar and composition skills for college and career-readiness, especially for the ACT test and placement exams. Their focus is definitely on word choice, usage, and improving sentence variety and purpose.

They also complete a variety of creative writing and short skills compositions. They will spend time with the help of the librarian to review term paper procedures, terminology, and expectations,

They will delve into an anthological study of American literature with classic authors and stories. Their literature unit culminates in the study of Shakespeare’s Hamlet. A large focus of this unit will also be on literary terms and figures of speech.

**English 10**

Sophomores focus on writing for purpose and with correct structure. They do many reviews of grammar, mechanics, and usage for college preparation and work-force readiness. They will have a variety of vocabulary and writing skills activities.

Their literature focus is on a new anthology of world literature with poetry, drama, Greek mythology and Shakespeare’s Julius Caesar.

**English 9**

The freshmen focus on grammatical skills so that they may write better sentences, paragraphs and essays, expanding on usage and transformational analysis. They will also have reviews with vocabulary, reading for context, spelling and basic skills.

Literature for them is a potpourri of classic stories, famous authors’ works, and analysis of the figurative language of the aforementioned pieces. They also read Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet in depth with a study of the author for the rest of their high school careers.

**Creative Writing**

The students who take this elective class will be studying poetry--its structures, figures of speech, and various kinds. They will write a variety of types, especially short ones and then work on rhymed or free verse longer ones.

Working on different aspects of short stories--including characterization, plot, setting, etc.—the students will take some free-write aspects and turn them into longer pieces. They will also devise a children’s book or story to be shared at the upper elementary level.

Finally, they will try their hands at short drama pieces or duos to be written and performed.