

English Program

The 4-year English Program is the doorway to communication with the world. Whether you are planning to enter the work force immediately after high school or are planning to continue your education, the English Program will serve you well in writing, speaking, listening and appreciating literature. Whatever career you are planning, be it in the professional, special trades, service, management, or business fields, the English Program can help you attain your goal.

ENGLISH			
GRADE 9	GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12
English 9 Honors	English Regents Skills	English Regents Skills	English Regents Skills
English 9 Regents	English Regents ENL	English Regents ENL	English Regents ENL
Academic Literacy I	English 10 Regents	English 11 Regents	English 12 Regents
English Regents Skills	English 10 Honors	English 11 Honors	English 12 Honors
English Regents ENL	Academic Literacy II	English 11 AP (Language & Composition)	English 12 AP (Literature & Composition)
		Academic Literacy III	Academic Literacy IV
	GRADE 10 Electives	Grade 11 Electives	Grade 12 Electives
	World Theatre	Broadcast Journalism	Broadcast Journalism
	Film Studies	Creative Writing College Level	Creative Writing College Level
		Journalism	Journalism
		World Theatre	World Theatre
		Oral Communications/Drama	Oral Communications/Drama
		Film Studies	Film Studies

PLEASE NOTE: All students are required by the New York State Board of Regents to pass the English Language Arts Exam, which all students at Sachem will take in January of their junior year.

English 9 Honors

Full

Yr., 1 Cr.

Prerequisite: English 8 or 8 Honors -Teacher Recommendation

Course Description: English 9 Honors contains all the components of English 9 Regents, with the following additional requirements and responsibilities: Students will perform one additional speech and learn more advanced methods of public speaking. Students will read and analyze a minimum of one major supplementary work, which may include but is not limited to a novel, play, or epic poem. Through their participation in this course, students will expand their vocabulary, develop their knowledge of literary techniques and devices, understand the function of language, as well as to hone their ability to think critically about literature, their own lives and the world around them.

English 9 Regents

Full

Yr., 1 Cr.

Prerequisite: English 8 or 8 Honors**Course Description:** The 9th grade English Program concentrates on writing experiences and the literary form, paying special attention to technique. Stories based on world literature are utilized as common experiences for the development of reading, writing, speaking and listening skills necessary to pass the Regents exam in 11th grade.**Academic Literacy I (9th grade)**

Full Yr., Alternate

Days, 1/2 Cr.

Prerequisite: This class will be available for all students who require added support. The course will provide students with a stronger foundation in English Language Arts.**Course Description:** Students will work individually or in small groups in the areas of vocabulary, comprehension, and research skills. In addition, students will be taught reading and writing skills which will help to prepare them for the Regents exams, as well as their content area classes.**English Regents Skills (9, 10, 11, 12)**

Full

Yr., 1 Cr.

Placement must be determined by the Committee on Special Education.

Prerequisite: None**Course Description:** With the current New York State graduation standards, all students are required to pass Regents examinations. These courses will reinforce student learning and will prepare students in a more individualized environment for the mandatory English Regents. In this way the student will be better able to understand the course content while at the same time developing and improving his/her learning skills. The course curriculum will cover units, skills, and goals similar to any other Regents course. There will be a major emphasis on developing skills in listening and speaking, reading comprehension, vocabulary, literature, the mechanics of writing, the writing process, organizational skills, study skills, and note-taking skills.**Homework:** Homework to be completed as assigned.**Summer Assignment:** None**Assessments:** The department utilizes a wide variety of both formative and cumulative assessments in order to measure student achievement. These assessments may include, but are not limited to, worksheets, homework assignments, quizzes, tests, written reports, oral reports, research papers, independent reading and midterm and final exams. Students' written work will be retained in a portfolio.**English Regents ENL (9/10, 11/12)**

Full

Yr., 1 Cr.

Prerequisite: None**Course Description:** These courses are for students who are not native English speakers. The class will attempt to develop the student's basic skills of English communication and literary analysis, but these are not

English-as-a-second-language courses designed to teach the English language. Students will read stories, poems, plays, novels, and write compositions and make speeches as do students in all English classes. The small class sizes will ensure that each student receives considerable attention, and the literature selected and vocabulary lists will not be as difficult as those in other courses. This is a program designed to reinforce student's learning in a more individualized environment. In this way, the students will be better able to understand the course content while at the same time developing and improving his/her basic skills in order to pass the Regents Exam in 11th grade.

Homework: Homework to be completed as assigned.**Summer Assignment:** Students are expected to participate in our Summer Reading Program where each student will choose a grade level appropriate text which will be evaluated upon their return to school by their classroom teacher using varied assessments.**Assessments:** The department utilizes a wide variety of both formative and cumulative assessments in order to measure student achievement. These assessments may include, but are not limited to, worksheets, homework assignments, quizzes, tests, written reports, oral reports, research papers, independent reading and midterm and final exams. Students' written work will be retained in a portfolio.

English 10 Regents

Full

Yr., 1 Cr.

Prerequisite: English 9 or 9 Honors

Course Description: The 10th grade program is designed to enhance the skills learned in the ninth grade through an approach based primarily upon the communication skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. Stories based on American literature are utilized as common experiences for developing critical thinking abilities, and students analyze style as well as author technique. Since written communication is essential to advanced thought, writing experiences are many, with emphasis on paragraphing skills and advanced sentence structure. Grammar skills are taught on an individual level through the use of the students' own writings, as well as through classroom experience.

English 10 Honors

Full

Yr., 1 Cr.

Prerequisite: English 9 or 9 Honors –Teacher Recommendation

Course Description: English 10 Honors contains all the components of English 10 Regents, with the following additional requirements and responsibilities: Students will perform one additional speech and learn more advanced methods of public speaking. Students will read and analyze a minimum of one major supplementary work, which may include but is not limited to a novel, play, or epic poem. Additional emphasis focuses on common SAT vocabulary, SAT and ACT preparation, and progressive experience with actual Regents examination tasks. Students begin exposure to AP level experiences with the ultimate option of participation in English 11 and 12 Advanced Placement courses.

Academic Literacy II (10th grade)

Full Yr., Alternate

Days, 1/2 Cr.

Prerequisite: This class will be available for all students who require added support. The course will provide students with a stronger foundation in English Language Arts.

Course Description: Students will work individually or in small groups in the areas of vocabulary, comprehension, and research skills. In addition, students will be taught reading and writing skills which will help to prepare them for the Regents exams, as well as their content area classes.

English Program - Juniors and Seniors

All eleventh and twelfth grade students will take a full-year course in English which will include the study of vocabulary, literature, experiences in writing, giving speeches, and composing a research paper. There are three levels of courses: English 11 Advanced Placement, English 11 Honors, English 11; and English 12 Advanced Placement, English 12 Honors and English 12 Regents. Each of these full year courses are designed to increase students' skills in the above areas. There are other courses the department offers to eleventh and twelfth graders: Composition for College-Bound, Oral Communication, Creative Writing, Journalism, and Broadcasting/Electronic Journalism, and Film Studies. Finally, there are Academic Literacy workshops in reading and writing designed especially for students who need to improve in these skills. Students who have performed inadequately on the ELA exam, or other standardized tests, will be placed in Academic Literacy.

English 11 Regents

Full

Yr., 1 Cr.

Prerequisite: English 10 or 10 Honors

Course Description: The eleventh grade program focuses on further development of skills in writing and speaking plus a more thorough study of literature. The literature includes novels, plays, short stories, and poetry from many different time periods and a wide variety of authors. Since the Junior year includes such important tests as the PSAT, SAT, ACT and the English Comprehensive Examination, students will

be thoroughly prepared through regular vocabulary study and writing assignments. Grammar skills, vocabulary, research skills, SAT/ACT prep, and practice with literary terminology will continue to be fundamentals built upon from years nine and ten.

English 11 Honors

Full

Yr., 1 Cr.

Prerequisite: English 10 or 10 Honors—Teacher Recommendation

Course Description: English 11 Honors contains all the components of English 11 Regents, with additional requirements and responsibilities: Students will perform one additional speech and learn more advanced methods of public speaking. Students will read and analyze a minimum of one major supplementary work, which may include but is not limited to a novel, play, or epic poem. Additional emphasis focuses on common SAT vocabulary, SAT and ACT preparation, and progressive experience with actual Regents examination tasks. Students continue preparation for AP level courses with the ultimate option of participation in English 12 Advanced Placement. Further exposure to and more sophisticated study of vital literary figures is also an essential component of this course.

English 11 Advanced Placement (Language & Composition)

Full

Yr., 1 Cr.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 10 Honors

Course Description: The AP course in English Language and Composition engages students in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of rhetorical contexts, and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes.

Academic Literacy III (11th Grade)

Full Yr., Alternate

Days, 1/2 Cr.

Prerequisite: This class will be available for all students who require added support. The course will provide students with a stronger foundation in English Language Arts.

Course Description: Students will work individually or in small groups in the areas of vocabulary, comprehension, and research skills. In addition, students will be taught reading and writing skills which will help to prepare them for the Regents exams, as well as their content area classes.

English 12 Regents

Full

Yr., 1 Cr.

Prerequisite: English 11 or 11 Honors

Course Description: The 12th grade program continues to focus on the development of writing and speaking skills as well as the study of literature, with an emphasis on preparing students for college and their future. Students participate in active reading, writing, and discussion of American and World literature in a variety of genres. Extensive writing in the form of essays, compositions, and reaction papers will also be emphasized. A research paper will reflect collegiate expectations.

English 12 Honors

Full

Yr., 1 Cr.

Prerequisite: English 11 or 11 Honors—Teacher Recommendation

Course Description: English 12 Honors is an extension of the honors program, designed for the motivated student. In the course, students read and analyze challenging literary works which prepare them for college. A variety of forms including plays, poetry, novels and stories from Europe and America have been selected to represent the key literary periods in history. The students will develop skills in literary analysis and research as well as continue to build vocabulary. The course also emphasizes the development of writing and speaking skills.

English 12 Advanced Placement (Literature & Composition)

Full

Yr., 1 Cr.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 11 Advanced Placement

Course Description: This course develops students' skills at literary analysis, criticism, and judgment and prepares them for the AP Exam in English. Students are responsible for reading many difficult poems and prose passages, novels, plays and stories, and then writing analytical responses. These experiences help the student to evaluate, entirely on his/her own, a variety of challenging texts. This is a skill the students must be able to employ on the AP Exam.

Academic Literacy IV (12th Grade)

Full Yr., Alternate

Days, 1/2 Cr.

Prerequisite: This class will be available for all students who require added support. The course will provide students with a stronger foundation in English Language Arts.

Course Description: Students will work individually or in small groups in the areas of vocabulary, comprehension, and research skills. In addition, students will be taught reading and writing skills which will help to prepare them for the Regents exams, as well as their content area classes.

Broadcast Journalism (11, 12)

Full

Yr., 1 Cr.

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Be a part of the exciting world of "real life" radio broadcasting. Plan, announce, and engineer entertainment programs. Research interesting topics and interview community leaders. Write, record and edit news stories. Edit "sound bites" with a state-of-the-art computer. Develop your speaking skills. Create an interesting information series. You might even receive fan mail if you're good. Roll up your sleeves and put everything you learn to work operating WSHR-FM, Sachem High School's own 6000 watt full power FM broadcast radio station. Students will work on a daily basis in one of many areas including, but not limited to, planning and executing a successful radio program, creating their own "voice" for radio and learning how to work effectively in a group setting.

Creative Writing (11, 12) College Level

Semester, 1/2 Cr.

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Tired of writing about things that teachers make you write about... but, still like to write? This course will allow you to explore your ability to write about people, places, and things that you care about. You can choose to write poems, memoirs, narratives, stories, and even song lyrics! You'll write because you *want* to write, and you'll create a portfolio of words that will make you proud - and get you safely through college writing and beyond. If you choose, you can enter your writing pieces into various contests to be in the running for awards and scholarships.

Journalism (11, 12)

Full

Yr., 1 Cr.

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Journalism is about people and events that shape our lives. In this course, you will learn what professional reporters know, which is: how to search for the truth, how to investigate a news story, how to interview personalities, and how to turn notes into a news story. You will be writing for the school's newspaper, a student run project which publishes news articles, interviews, editorials, feature stories and sports articles about Sachem and the world beyond. We will gather, edit, organize, layout and publish issues throughout the school year. If you enjoy writing, editing or even photography, this is the class for you.

World Theatre (10, 11, 12)

Semester, 1/2 Cr.

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: The course is designed to increase cultural awareness of theatrical traditions from around the globe. Students will explore the value of diversity in the arts while developing their ideas about the insights gained into other civilizations through rigorously examining their theatrical traditions. Curriculum will draw upon a wide array of texts that students will engage with as creators, designers, directors, and performers, working both individually and in ensemble groups. The end goal of the course is thus twofold — to facilitate students in becoming autonomous, informed, and skilled theater artists while promoting international-mindedness and an appreciation of the diversity of the arts.

Oral Communications/Drama (11, 12)

Semester, 1/2 Cr.

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Public speaking is a skill, not necessarily a talent. In that sense, anyone can become an effective public speaker – with the right guidance. This course is designed to help develop public speaking skills through activities in role playing, interviewing, oral interpretation, theatre games, and dramatic presentations. This course will help you to become more aware of yourself as a speaker, giving you more poise and confidence and causing you to be able to more effectively stand and deliver information in a school, work, or social settings.

Film Studies (10, 11, 12)

Semester, 1/2 Cr.

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: This course will analyze the development of film as an art form. Particular areas of study will include specific production techniques such as camera use and placement, editing, shot selection, sound, color and lighting, screenwriting, special effects and the relationship of the viewer to the action on the screen. Through screening of films from various periods and different genres we will examine and critique how all these techniques, when combined, effectively convey meaning.