

# 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 Courses

English 9	English 11 Honors
English 9 Honors	English 11 AP Lang & Comp.
Academic Literacy I	Academic Literacy III
English 10	English 12
English 10 Honors	English 12 Honors
Academic Literacy II	English 12 AP Lit. & Comp.
English 11	Academic Literacy IV

## Electives

Composition (1/2 cr.)
Creative Writing (1/2 cr.)
Journalism (1 cr.)
Broadcast Journalism (1 cr.)
Oral Communications (1/2 cr.)
The Comedy and Romance of Shakespeare (1/2 cr.)

**PLEASE NOTE: Because of the mandates instituted by the New York State Board of Regents, all 9th grade and 10th grade courses will focus on the skills needed for the Regents exam which students are required to pass in the 11th grade.**

### English 9 Honors Full Yr., 1 Cr.

The English 9th grade honors curriculum is a select course for honors students. It stresses the development of skills learned originally in middle school as well as new, creative works. Research into literature will be required. Students will take the New York State Comprehensive Regents Exam in 11th grade.

### English 9 Regents Full Yr., 1 Cr.

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 development of the reading, writing, speaking and listening skills necessary to pass the Regents exam in 11th grade. Frequent writing experiences are included, for writing skills are needed throughout the entire program in high school. The disciplines of organization are stressed, since students need to work on organization of thoughts as well as augmentation of skills. Grammar skills are taught on an individual level through the use of the students' own writings, as well as through classroom experience.

### Academic Literacy I (9th grade)

**Full Yr., Alternate Days, 1/2 Cr.**

The Academic Literacy program is designed to meet the needs of students who are reading below grade level. 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 9 Regents Skills

**Full Yr., 1 Cr.**

**Placement must be determined by the Committee on Special Education.** With the current New York State graduation standards, all students are required to pass Regents examinations. This course 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 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.

### English 10 Honors

**Full Yr., 1 Cr.**

The 10th grade honors English curriculum is a select course enhancing the regular 10th grade program based upon highly challenging materials. Literature will be studied as an art form and frequent writing experiences will provide the student with many opportunities to develop higher level communication skills. Students will take the New York State Comprehensive Regents Exam in 11th grade.

### English 10 Regents

**Full Yr., 1 Cr.**

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 skills are essential to advanced thought, writing experiences are many, with emphasis on improvement of paragraphing skills and advanced sentence structure. Students will take the New York State Comprehensive Exam in 11th grade.

### Academic Literacy II (10th grade)

**Full Yr., Alternate Days, 1/2 Cr.**

The Academic Literacy Program is designed to meet the needs of students who are reading below grade level. Students will work individually and/or in small groups in areas of vocabulary, comprehension and research skills. Additionally, students will be taught strategies necessary for success on the English Regents.

**English 10 Regents Skills** **Full Yr., 1 Cr.**  
**Placement must be determined by the Committee on Special Education.** The concept of this course is to raise the level of expectation of our classified students in order to improve their abilities and capabilities. By means of a very structured program, students will be trained to master critical concepts commonly tested on the English Regents which they must take in 11th grade. 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.

### English Program - Juniors

All eleventh 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, and English 11. Each of these full year courses is designed to increase students' skills in the above areas.

There are other courses the department offers to eleventh graders: Composition for the College-Bound, Oral Communication, Creative Writing, Journalism, and Broadcasting/Electronic Journalism and The Comedy & Romance of Shakespeare.

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 Advanced Placement (Language & Composition) **Full Yr., 1 Cr.**

This course will include both the reading and analysis of varieties of prose. Examples of prose from various fields and periods will serve as models of effective styles. There will be a variety of writing assignments requiring the students to learn to recognize and work with various kinds and levels of diction, modes of discourse, aims of discourse, and various rhetorical strategies and the relationship among author, audience and subject. Since students will analyze and practice the rhetorical features of writing, linguistic and grammatical conventions of the English language will be stressed. This course will prepare the student for the eleventh grade English Regents exam and the AP exam. Students must write well. Summer reading of one major literary work is required. Title will be announced by teacher. **This course requires the completion of a summer assignment which will be handed out in June and will be collected during the first week of school in September.**

### Academic Literacy III (11th Grade) **Full Yr., Alternate Days, 1/2 Cr.**

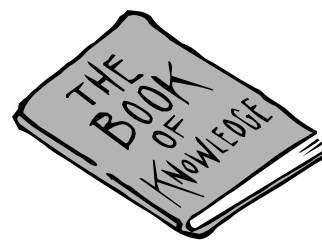
The Academic Literacy Program is designed to meet the needs of students who are reading below grade level. Students will work individually and/or in small groups in areas of vocabulary, comprehension and research skills. Additionally, students will be taught strategies necessary for success on the English Regents.

### English 11 Honors **Full Yr., 1 Cr.**

This course is designed to give students who are strong in English skills an exposure to renowned authors and important literary trends. Opportunities will be provided for each student to explore, in depth, both British and American literature. This course is intended to be a continuation of the Honors program from the tenth grade. Only students who enjoy reading and writing should take this course. In addition, they should expect to deal with pre-college material. All students will take the English Regents in June.

### English 11 Regents **Full Yr., 1 Cr.**

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, biographies, short stories, and poetry from the best available American, British, and other foreign works. Since the junior year includes such important tests as the PSAT exam and the English Comprehensive Regents Examination, students will be thoroughly prepared through regular vocabulary study and writing assignments. In addition, students will learn to document and organize research information into an argumentative research paper.



### English 11 Regents Skills **Full Yr., 1 Cr.** **Placement must be determined by the Committee on Special Education.**

This course provides a carefully structured curriculum and smaller class enrollments to promote an optimum learning environment for classified students. Area of emphasis include: varied speaking and listening experiences, improvement of reading comprehension, a broad sampling of literature with a focus on critical reading and analysis, vocabulary development, note-taking and research skills, organizational skills, study skills, mechanics of writing and the writing process. The New York State Comprehensive Regents Exam must be taken.

**English Program - Seniors****English 12 Advanced Placement  
(Literature & Composition)****Full Yr., 1 Cr.**

This course develops students' skills at literary analysis, critique, 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 their own, material which they have never read before. This is a skill they must be able to do on the AP Exam. **This course requires the completion of a summer assignment which will be handed out in June and will be collected during the first week of school in September.**

**English Regents (E.S.L.) (9,10,11,12) Full Yr., 1 Cr.**

This course is for students who are new to Sachem High School and who are not native English speakers. The class will attempt to develop the student's basic skills of English communication and literary analysis, but it is not an English-as-a-second-language course designed to teach the English language. Rather the students will read stories, poems, plays, novels, and write compositions and make speeches as do students in all English classes. However, the small class size 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 course content while at the same time developing and improving his/her basic skills in order to pass the Regents in 11th grade.

**Academic Literacy IV (12th Grade)****Full Yr., Alternate Days, 1/2 Cr.**

The Academic Literacy Program is designed to meet the needs of students who are reading below grade level. Students will work individually and/or in small groups in areas of vocabulary, comprehension and research skills. Additionally, students will be taught strategies necessary for success on the English Regents.

**English 12 Honors****Full Yr., 1 Cr.**

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 development of writing and speaking skills.

**English 12 Regents****Full Yr., 1 Cr.**

The twelfth grade program continues to focus on further development of writing and speaking skills as well as the study of literature.

**English 12 Regents Skills****Full Yr., 1 Cr.**

**Placement must be determined by the Committee on Special Education.** This course provides a carefully structured curriculum and smaller class enrollments to promote an optimum learning environment for classified students. Areas of emphasis include: varied speaking and listening experiences, improvement of reading comprehension, a broad sampling of literature with a focus on critical reading and analysis, vocabulary development, note-taking and research skills, organizational skills, study skills, mechanics of writing, and the writing process.

**English College Prep/Elective Courses**

These courses are designed with the purpose of providing students with a real insight into the types of English/Humanities courses they will be offered when they enter into college, especially in their freshman and sophomore years of study. The instruction for our college prep courses will be modeled after actual college curricula, with the goal of exposing students to the different demands of college-level course work - however, these courses will be rooted in being attentive to the needs of the typical high-school level student, and provide teacher guidance in addressing those needs.

**Broadcasting and Electronic Journalism (11, 12)****Full Yr., 1 Cr.**

Be a part of the exciting world of "real life" radio broadcasting. Plan, announce, and engineer entertainment programs. Research and interview community leaders and interesting topics. 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. During the second semester, students will work on a daily basis in one of three areas: 1. Journalism students will produce daily newscasts (or sportscasts) for airing on WSHR. They will select "beats" from the school district to the county level. 2. Advertising and public relations students will design, create and execute publicity and promotion campaigns for WSHR, and will be encouraged to represent WSHR in appearances before community groups. 3. Broadcasting students will supervise the period-by-period operation of WSHR. Meaningful supervised internships may be arranged in lieu of portions of classwork.

**The Comedy and Romance of Shakespeare**  
(10, 11, 12) **One Semester, 1/2 Cr.**

"Why does everyone always DIE?" Students who sign up for this course will no longer lament death and depression in an English class! Instead, they will become more familiar with the comedic and romantic conventions of Shakespeare's comedies and poetry. The course will examine not only the comedic tradition of theatre, but also how Shakespeare transcends those conventions in plays such as *As You Like It*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Twelfth Night*, and others. In addition, students will develop skills necessary to interpret and analyze the beautiful and elaborate language of Shakespeare's Sonnets. Shakespeare's life and works are studied within the context of the Elizabethan Renaissance and examined via a wide range of media including text and film. Elements of the class include both reading and performance of the plays and sonnets by the students.



**Composition (11, 12) One Semester, 1/2 Cr.**

Almost all incoming college freshmen will be required to take this type of course in many colleges and universities as part of their humanities/language core. This course is designed to introduce high school students to the types of different writing assignments that college professors will be giving, while addressing the basic skills necessary to become more proficient in these areas. With the increased expectations and demands within colleges and the workplace, this course can be beneficial for any student who wishes to gain an advantage in the basic disciplines of writing. Don't wait until your writing professor in college hands back a paper with red ink all over it - figure out where your writing weaknesses are now so you can work on correcting them and be in a position to earn better marks in your future.

**Creative Writing (11,12) College Level**  
**One Semester, 1/2 Cr.**

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. You will learn many skills associated with writing, such as work and time management techniques that will help you long after you graduate. And, 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.**

Who brought down the government of Richard Nixon? Two reporters! Who were the stars of the Persian Gulf War? The CNN correspondents! Journalism is about people and events that shape our lives. In this course, you will learn what professional reporters know: how to search for the truth, how to investigate a news story, how to interview major personalities, and how to change notes into a hard news story. You'll be writing hard-hitting news articles, personality interviews, fiery editorials, feature stories, advice columns, and sports articles. As a magazine journalist, you will be reporting local and school news, preparing political and social perspectives through polls and editorial cartoons, writing point/counterpoint editorials, using techniques for investigative reporting, and creating your own column in the fields of foreign correspondence, entertainment and advertising. You'll dabble in electronic journalism and put together articles from the internet.

**Oral Communications/Drama (11, 12)**  
**One Semester, 1/2 Cr.**

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 setting.