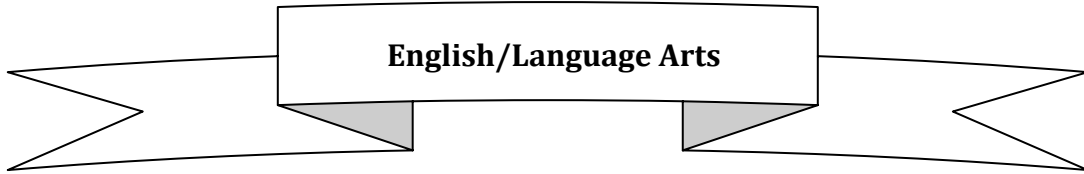


## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS



- **Students in grade 6 are required to take English 6 and Reading 6** (unless recommended for Foreign Language).
- **Students in grade 7 are required to take English 7.**
- **Students in grade 8 are required to take English 8.**
- **Placement will be based upon grades in previous classes and recommendations by teachers and parents.**

### **English - Grade 6 (Full Year)**

Students are presented with texts of different genres and forms related to the four thematic units. Writing is a major focus with stress placed on the informative, persuasive, narrative, and procedural intents. Students read and analyze texts from multiple sources to understand audience, purpose, and language; to interpret meaning; and to evaluate the usefulness of a text. Tasks completed in each unit ask students to use writing, speaking, and technology skills.

### **English Grade 6 - Gifted and Talented (Full Year)**

The overarching theme for the English 6 course is *Kaleidoscopes*. While studying this theme, students will complete units that involve the study of language and literature in the context of change and possibility. The English 6 curriculum consists of four thematic units. The four units are *Foundations*, *Adventures*, *Challenges and Barriers*, and *Choices*. This course is designed to meet the needs of the highly able reader and writer. The course emphasizes abstract reasoning, advanced vocabulary, and high-level reasoning in discussion to help students develop their analytical and interpretive thinking skills.

### **English - Grade 7 (Full Year)**

Students will complete four thematic units that involve the study of language and literature in the context of challenges that people face, and the traits and actions linked to success or failure. The topics for these units are *Identity*, *A Sense of Place*, *Voices From the Place*, and *Imagination*. Students experience texts of different genres and forms. Language and grammar instruction focuses on students' most frequent errors. Vocabulary is taught within the context of the assigned readings, and students experience the words in both written and oral form. This course integrates reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. Writing focuses on the informative and persuasive intents. The writing process continues to be developed, and students are asked to do self-reflection on each of their

products. Students are also given opportunities to present their work orally and through media productions.

### **English Grade 7 – Advanced (Full Year)**

Students are involved in inquiry-based learning that involves discussion, writing, and research activities. This course is designed to meet the needs of the highly able reader and writer. These units focus on abstract reasoning, advanced vocabulary, and the analysis of literature.

### **English - Grade 8 (Full Year)**

The English 8 curriculum develops the theme of *Explorations*. Students will complete four thematic units that involve the study of language and literature in the context of exploring the world and new ideas. The topics of these units are *Journeys, Community, Responsibility, and Discoveries*. Students experience texts of different genres and forms related to each of the themes. This course integrates reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. Writing focuses on the informative and persuasive intents. The progression from first draft to corrected final copy is emphasized. Students are given opportunities to present their work orally and through media demonstrations.

### **English Grade 8 - Gifted and Talented (Full Year)**

The overarching theme for English 8 for gifted and talented students is *Explorations*. Students are involved in inquiry-based learning that involves discussion, writing, and research activities. This course is designed to meet the needs of the highly able reader and writer. These units focus on abstract reasoning, advanced vocabulary, and the analysis of literature.

### **Advanced English 8 (full year)**

This course is designed for able and motivated students with a lively interest in the power and versatility of language. In preparation for advanced high school English courses, students read challenging texts written in various time periods and rhetorical contexts, making interdisciplinary connections with historical events and concepts developed in their grade 8 U.S. History class. Students develop their ability to express ideas with clarity and precision by writing increasingly complex compositions for a variety of purposes, including literary analysis, persuasion, and research.

***Students who successfully complete both semesters and pass the semester B final exam will earn one elective credit toward graduation.***

### **Reading Grade 6 (Full Year)**

The Reading 6 curriculum is designed to provide students with varied reading experiences that are closely linked to the units in the English 6 curriculum. Every unit includes a mixture of expository and narrative texts, and students receive instruction in reading strategies that relate to these texts. In each unit, students will be asked to create products and present them in a variety of ways to develop writing, listening, speaking, and technology skills.

### **Reading Grade 6 - Gifted and Talented (Full Year)**

The Reading 6 gifted and talented curriculum provides students with a variety of reading experiences that are closely linked to the English 6 curriculum. This course incorporates The Junior Great Books program into the reading curriculum. The Junior Great Books program is a strong, inquiry-based language arts program that refines and extends students' skills in reading, thinking, and communicating. Shared inquiry reading, discussion, and writing activities may be used with a wide range of literature to encourage students to use high-level thinking processes as they explore curricular themes.

### **Reading Grade 7 (Full Year)**

The Reading 7 curriculum allows students to explore units in literature and read a variety of short stories and articles. The purpose of this course is to develop critical thinking skills. Students will also learn vocabulary skills that can help them perform well on the PSAT and SAT in high school. This course is designed to help students make sophisticated connections among themselves and the text, between two or more texts, and between the text and the world.

### **Reading 8 (Full Year)**

The Reading 8 curriculum reinforces and extends the reading strategies framed in previous reading and content courses. Eighth grade reading courses are designed to meet the needs of on-grade level readers and below-grade level readers to improve their comprehension. Students apply research-based reading strategies as they read for information. They will read about a variety of topics to help identify their own interests. They will then relate this information to careers that may be of interest to them in the future. Students will do research using electronic and traditional texts in order to develop skills in understanding demanding expository texts in high school.

### **Read 180**

Read-180 is a research-based program that allows students to increase their reading ability through the use of a three-station classroom. The classroom is divided into three small-group stations that allow students to receive traditional direct instruction, work independently using text coupled with audio books to build fluency, and use assistive computer technology. Admission into this specialized program is based upon teacher/staff recommendation.

### **ESOL (English as a Second Language)**

The ESL program is designed for students whose native language is not English. Students enter the program based on their English Language Proficiency which is determined by a test and teacher recommendations. Some students continue taking ESL after elementary school while others can be placed because they have newly arrived in the country or have been ESL students in the past and are struggling in their content area classes. There are three ESL levels: beginners, intermediate, and advanced. Students are designated in accordance with their fluency in speaking, reading, listening, and writing. The ESL program supports all general education courses. Classes are taught in English only and academic competency is its primary goal.

**Corrective Reading**

Corrective Reading is a complete core program that uses a Direct Instruction method to help students master the essential decoding and comprehension skills they need not only to read well, but to learn well. Direct Instruction utilizes a carefully developed and tested program design structured so that students learn how to learn as they master increasingly complex skills and strategies. It also incorporates a scripted presentation approach that uses a brisk pace, carefully chosen exercises, and examples to engage even reluctant learners.