



Junior Division English English with a Humanities Focus Mondays, 9:15-12:15

Building on the skills developed in the Jr. Division Prep year, Jr. Division students will continue to become more engaged and observant readers and writers. They will read and discuss excellent literature and complete variety of writing projects intended to help them develop a clear and powerful writers' voice. A variety of multistep writing projects help students develop a clear and powerful writers' voice. Students will craft their writing for readability and clarity, distinguishing between academic and casual writing and employing literary devices, citing sources, and keeping the audience in mind.

Humanities Focus: Though not a complete history course, Junior Division English offers a humanities focus that unites the literature choices, combining a dip into history with the study of high-quality literature of various genres. *If student enrollment supports, the class will be divided into a 7th grade section and an 8th grade section. If the class is combined, the 8th grade literature will be chosen.*

7th grade: The literature selections during the year will be set in ancient and medieval historical settings.

8th grade: The literature selections will be set during some of the seminal events in America from the 1700s through the modern day,

Writing Objectives

- To improve upon students' current writing ability by assessing strengths and weaknesses in grammar and style
- To craft (edit and reword) writing for better readability and clarity
- To distinguish between academic and casual writing
- To explore various avenues of writing techniques and styles
- To practice composing an academic essay
- To learn to write to an audience
- To analyze their own writing in the same way they analyze other literature in class
- To add literary elements to stories and poetry
- To cite sources correctly when using information from others

Literature Objectives

- To read a variety of works of excellent literature
- To independently identify literary devices in literature
- To develop a deeper understanding of underlying themes, purposes, and symbolism in literature through class discussion and independent analysis
- To compare and contrast different works of literature
- To recognize Biblical themes in literature
- To develop vocabulary fluency through the study of Greek and Latin roots

Prerequisites: Students must be 12 or 13 on or by August 31. This class is designed as a two year course with an entirely different selection of literature and writing projects in the alternate year. Before enrolling, students should be able to compose a structured paragraph with topic sentences, details, conclusion, and appropriate use of writing conventions. They should be able to read and comprehend grade level text.

Student Requirements: Students are expected to complete about 4 hours of homework outside of class per week. They will complete tests and quizzes, projects, and writing assignments.

Parent Requirements: Parents may need to be involved with helping students stay organized and on track throughout the week. Parents will need to provide accommodations for students who are below grade level in reading and writing (ie read aloud, scribe for student).