

## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

### PHILOSOPHY

The English Department of Bishop Neumann High School believes that it must strive to enhance students' ability to communicate through reading, writing, listening and speaking and that it must also help students develop a Christian attitude toward the uniqueness of person through communication and characters met in literature.

The department believes that it has to offer opportunities for students to think creatively and critically. At the same time, the department must allow for the different learning abilities and styles of the students. The department will strive for a continuous re-evaluation of itself in relationship to the school's philosophy and the needs of the students.

### OBJECTIVES

The general objectives of the English Department are to enable the student to:

1. Identify and list individual characteristics and techniques of types of literature, periods of literature, and major authors.
2. Read, write, speak and listen clearly and comfortably according to the individual's ability.
3. Articulate responses to various types of literature.
4. Research, organize and present information and ideas orally and in writing.
5. Recognize, discern and discuss what other people think about life -- its problems, issues and ideas -- through exposure to literature and media.
6. Identify with life experiences encountered in literature and media which will further the student's understanding of human nature.
7. Recognize the importance that the English language has played and will play in the student's life.
8. Develop and demonstrate poise and confidence in formal speaking situations in large groups, small groups and one-to-one situations.
9. Identify, differentiate and analyze different styles within literary genres.
10. Develop creativity through communication.

### COURSE OFFERINGS AND DESCRIPTIONS

**English I** (Introduction to Literature & Composition) (full year - 10 credits) Grade 9

This course is designed as an introductory course for the study of literature. Fiction, drama and poetry are covered in detail with special emphasis on understanding the terms appropriate to each genre. Vocabulary through the techniques of composition is also an essential part of this year's study. There will be a unit of review on grammar and punctuation.

**English II** (American Literature & Composition) (full year - 10 credits) Grade 10

This course is a survey of American Literature from the time of the Puritans to the present day. Students are expected to apply the tools learned in freshmen year and to delve deeper into the study of the characters met in the stories. The study of critical composition, creative writing, and drama is also included.

**English III** (Understanding Literature) (full year - 10 credits) Grade 11

Students in Understanding Literature will read adolescent and modern novels, short stories and poetry. Students will also continue to add to previously mastered writing skills through journals, narratives, poetry, and essays.

Prerequisite: Recommendation of English department.

**English III** (British Literature) (full year - 10 credits) Grade 11

The literature of England from early Celtic materials to modern English writers is the basic course of study for the junior year. Emphasis will also be placed on developing composition, critical writing and vocabulary skills.

Prerequisite: Recommendation of English department.

**English IV** (Modern Literature) (full year - 10 credits) Grade 12

Students in Modern Literature will read adolescent and modern novels, poetry and short stories, write response journals and will also continue to improve writing skills through composition and analytical writing exercises. A critical analysis and a research paper are also required.

Prerequisite: Recommendation of English department.

**English IV** (World Literature) (full year - 10 credits) Grade 12

Students will study major works of world literature and will continue work in composition and vocabulary skills.

Prerequisite: Recommendation of English department.

**English IV** (Honors) (full year - 10 credits) Grade 12

An upper level English course designed to give students experience in analytical discussion and writing about literature at a college level. Also included will be a unit covering the analysis of poetry and a composition unit. Weighted.

Prerequisite: Recommendation of English department.

\*\* Seniors are to take one of the English IV courses.

**Speech I** (semester - 5 credits) (*Will be connected to a semester of Computer Application*) Grades 10

The first year of speech introduces students to the speaking and listening process. Together they explore the nature and importance of individual perception as well as the many levels of verbal and non-verbal communication. They also take a close look at their communication with themselves and with others, both on a one-to-one basis and in-group situations. (The culmination of the class will be a unit on speech giving in which each student presents one or more informative speech or demonstration speech or persuasive speech to the class.)

Prerequisite: none Required in 10<sup>th</sup> grade.