

Shawnee Mission South offers Honors English classes at grades 9 and 10 and Advanced Placement English classes at grades 11 and 12. The Honors classes at grades 9 and 10 prepare students for the AP classes at grades 11 and 12. Students may take the Advanced Placement English Language and Composition Exam at grade 11 and the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Exam at grade 12 for possible college credit. These demanding classes require more effort, attention, skill, and motivation than the at-level English classes.

We are pleased that you have chosen to enroll in an Honors or AP English class; however, we want students and parents to understand the rigor and expectations of the Honors and AP courses. Students who do not fulfill their commitment or who struggle with the requirements of the class may be counseled by their teacher and/or counselor to transfer *at semester* to an at-level class.

HOMEWORK

The average amount of time for daily homework will be 30-45 minutes. However, students will often be assigned readings or long-term assignments that will require efficient time management so that they are not overwhelmed by deadlines. Self-discipline and time management are two skills developed through the Honors/AP classes.

LATE WORK

Because Advanced Placement classes are college-level courses, late work is not generally accepted in Honors/AP classes. Students will receive credit only for assignments turned in on the day assignments are due. Students absent on the due date of an assignment or project should make arrangements with their teacher regarding the assignments.

TESTS

Students absent on the day of a previously announced test will be expected to make up the test the day they return to school. Students also may expect the test to differ in type and/or content from the original.

READING

Students will be asked to complete the reading of an extended text during the first two weeks of school. The purpose of this task is to review and introduce essential vocabulary and skills for the course as well as to reinforce the rigor and expectations of the course. Students will have writings and tests associated with this initial reading. The reading list for each grade level will be available in May so that students have the opportunity of reading ahead in preparation of this first assignment. Students are encouraged to purchase their own copies of the readings so that they may annotate as they read.

COMPOSITION

Writing is an integral part of every Honors/AP class. Students may expect to write eight (8) formal compositions prescribed by the Shawnee Mission Language Arts Curriculum and a minimum of six (6) in-class-timed writings. Papers must be original. Plagiarized work from any source will receive *no credit*. All papers written outside of class must be word-processed and in the format prescribed in the Shawnee Mission *Language Arts Handbook*.

GRADING

The grading policies for each class will be given to the students the first week of classes. In general, the higher the grade level, the less emphasis is given to daily work.

An extra grade point is awarded to students who earn an A or B in the Honors/AP classes. A grade of C does not receive the extra grade point. Students are expected to maintain at least a B average.

THE COLLEGE BOARD ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMINATIONS (11th & 12th grades)

AP students are expected to take the Advanced Placement Exams given by the College Board in May. Although colleges do not necessarily award AP credit/placement for both English Language and English Literature AP exams, students are encouraged take both exams for the preparation they provide. Students should begin early to make plans to pay for the test. The cost of the exam is approximately \$80. Every effort will be made to offer assistance in meeting the cost of the exam when necessary. Students should see the AP counselor about financial need. Students will receive the AP course designation on their transcript only if they take the AP exam. Students who take the AP exam also are eligible for a final exam waiver.

COLLEGE NOW

In the English 12 Honors/AP course students have the opportunity of earning college credit through the College Now program offered by Johnson County Community College. Students are encouraged to discuss this option with their counselor. Information on enrolling in College Now will be provided during the first few weeks of the school year.

PARENT/TEACHER/STUDENT RELATIONSHIPS (11TH AND 12TH GRADES)

The English 11 and 12 Honors/AP classes are essentially college-level courses; therefore, students are expected to be responsible for their behavior, assignments, and any conflict resolution. Parents are, of course, welcome to meet with the Honors/AP teachers; however, students are expected to use this opportunity to develop the independence needed in the college setting in which they will soon find themselves.