**Curriculum**

**English 9**

**Course Overview**

This course is designed to work in tandem with the 9th Grade Ancient Civilizations History Course in order to provide a thorough understanding of development of culture and civilization in human history. In the process, the course will give students a solid foundation in the study of language and literature that is necessary for success in future academic courses. Students are introduced to a variety of genres, including poetry, novels, drama, and short fiction. Through close study of these genres, students will develop effective skills in reading attentively, writing analytically, and using vocabulary and grammar correctly.

**Department Standards**

Students will:

-develop critical thinking skills that will encourage them to make connections between literature and both their own lives and other academic disciplines;

-develop an appreciation for literature through the comprehension and analysis of various genres;

-communicate their understanding and ideas effectively in a variety of written forms;

-articulate organized ideas through a variety of oral activities;

-expand and strengthen their vocabularies to enhance their ability to understand and communicate;

-learn and apply the standard conventions of the English language in both speaking and writing.

**Benchmarks**:

Students will:

-make relevant connections between historical fact and cultural significance of those facts.

-read for detail, being able to extract the main idea and relevant themes from the text.

-be able to recognize how the elements of fiction and literary devices work in a variety of genres.

-demonstrate an understanding of both the literal and figurative meaning of a text through summary, paraphrasing, and analysis.

-demonstrate the ability to write for different purposes, using expository, persuasive, descriptive, and narrative writing.

-use the writing process to organize and present their ideas in an organized and salient essay.

-use a variety of methods to expand and strengthen their vocabulary, incorporating this new vocabulary into their writing.

-understand the different parts of speech and parts of a sentence and be able to use them correctly and effectively in the writing of paragraphs and essays.

**Performance Indicators**

Students will:

-identify and recall key events and characters and be able to articulate their significance.

-identify the elements of fiction and articulate their development with a text.

-understand and articulate an individual’s role within society and the way culture develops as a result.

-understand and articulate an individual’s role in the lives of others.

-compose effective essays through the structured techniques of the eleven-sentence paragraph.

-practice memorization skills through recitation and persuasive and rhetorical skills though oral presentations.

-demonstrate an understanding of functions of the parts of speech and other advanced grammatical concepts.

-develop advanced vocabulary through textual and workbook practice.

-demonstrate active reading skills and effective note-taking, outlining, and editing skills (throughout the year)

**Assessments**

Writing a summary (summer reading)

Writing a personal narrative (9th grade speeches project)

Writing a short story (Short Fiction)

Project-Based Assessment (Shakespeare/Poetry)

Analytical Essay (*The Odyssey/*Short Fiction)

Creative Writing (*The Odyssey/*Short Fiction)

Reading Response Journal (*Antigone*)

Test Taking (Summer Reading/*The Odyssey* and others)

Oral delivery of a memorized passage (Poetry)

Close reading and analysis of a given passage (*The Odyssey/Antigone/Julius Caesar/Short Stories/Poetry*)

Rhetorical Analysis (*Julius Caesar*)

Weekly Membean Sessions for Vocabulary

Tri-weekly Grammar and Vocab Quizzes

Study Skills Requisite for Cumulative Semester Exams

**Core Topics**

Understanding Types of Conflicts, Elements of Fiction and Genre (*Fahrenheit 451, Short Stories, Ancient and Contemporary Drama, Poetry*)
Understanding the Individual’s Role in Society (*Mythology Unit*/*Odyssey*/*Antigone/1984*)

Understanding the Elements of Rhetoric (*Julius Caesar*)

Understanding the Elements of Fiction/Genre Studies (Short Fiction)

Understanding the Elements of Poetic Language (Poetry)

Understanding Structural and Mechanical Aspects of Analytic Writing (all year)

Understanding Technical Approaches to Literary Analysis (all year)

Understanding Formalist Criticism (*Antigone*/Poetry/*1984*)

Understanding Grammatical Elements of Effective Writing (all year)

**Specific Content**

Quarter 1

Grammar—Parts of Speech/Parts of a Sentence

Membean Vocabulary

Elements of fiction and introduction of analytic paragraph (summer reading)

Ninth Grade Speeches

Greek Mythology Unit

Epic Poetry—*The Odyssey*

Quarter 2

Grammar—Clauses and Mega-Blunders

Membean Vocabulary

Epic Poetry (cont’d)—*The Odyssey*

Expository Essay Project

Greek tragedy—*Antigone*

*Julius Caesar*

Shakespeare Research Project (Groups)

Rhetorical Analysis Writing Project

Quarter 3

Grammar—Mega-Blunders

Membean Vocabulary

Short Fiction

Writing Project—Short stories

Poetry

Close Reading Essay Project

Quarter 4

Grammar—Parallel Structure

Membean Vocabulary

Poetry

*1984*

**Resources**

2014-2015 Summer Reading: *Touching the Void* and *Fahrenheit 451*

*The Odyssey*

*Antigone*

*Julius Caesar*

Short stories

Selection of non-fiction writing

*The Norton Introduction to Literature*

Membean