

# BERKS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

GOD | FAMILY | ACADEMICS | FUN

## It is the aim of the English Department that:

- ❖ Students will exhibit the following characteristics in their writing: substantial and relevant content, logical organization and progression, appropriateness of tone, and accuracy in mechanics and usage;
- ❖ Students will be able to read closely an unfamiliar literary text with good comprehension of its content and literary characteristics.
- ❖ Students will acquire knowledge of important works of major English, American, and World literature;
- ❖ Students will be able to write and to deliver an informative speech and a argumentative speech and will demonstrate the ability to speak clearly and effectively in debate and oral interpretations
- ❖ Students will integrate their writing and research with computer writing labs and on-line library programs.

### **English: Intro to Lit      Grade 9      College Prep      CP-Modified**

This course provides an in-depth study of basic language skills in speaking and writing, with emphasis on increasing individual writing and interpretive skills. Additional emphasis is placed on grammar, vocabulary and reading comprehension. Along with various studied literary genres in poetry and prose, outside reading assignments broaden the literature base upon which students can build. The formal essay is introduced. Summer reading and a research paper are required.

### **English: Intro to Lit      Grade 9      Honors      Prerequisite: Departmental Approval**

This course draws from various genres of literature, uses a higher vocabulary level than college prep classes, and integrates grammar with writing. The formal essay is reinforced. Because students are expected to work independently on short research projects and research papers, good writing skills are essential. Summer reading and a research paper are required.

### **English: World Literature      Grade 10      College Prep**

Early and contemporary World Literature is the focus of this course. Student evaluation is based on both objective testing and analytical writing. Writing in all domains and assignments of all types are an integral part of the course. Grammar and vocabulary study continues. Summer reading and a persuasive research paper are required.

### **English: World Literature      Grade 10      Honors**

Prerequisite: 92% in English I Honors and/or Departmental Approval. 95% in CP English1  
Designated for sophomores who have demonstrated superior critical reading and analytical abilities, the course focuses on the development of world literature, narrative, expository, analytical/argumentative writing, and analysis of historical fiction. Grammar study continues. Vocabulary study encompasses words in context. The school reserves the right to assign the student to this level according to performance and mental discipline exhibited during the freshman year, evaluation of writing samples, and teacher recommendation. Summer reading, projects, and a research paper are required.

BerksCatholic High School, Inc.

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## English: American Literature

## Grade 11

## College Prep

Focusing on composition and literature, this course highlights literary figures, themes and ideas in American literature. Students expand their analytical writing skills using supplementary readings in addition to the text for composition topics. Domain writing continues to be a priority, along with oral presentations. Grammar and usage study will be integrated with writing skills. Weekly vocabulary work continues the tradition of previous years. A research paper is mandatory. Grammar and vocabulary study are included to enhance writing skills. Students are assigned to this level based upon performance during freshman and sophomore years, evaluation of writing samples, and teacher recommendation. Summer reading and a research paper are required.

## English: American Literature

## Grade 11

## Honors

**Prerequisite:** 92% in English II Honors or 95% in English II CP and Departmental Approval

Designed for the independent learner, this course accelerates development of analytical and argumentative writing, as well as expository and narrative writing skills. Using text selections and outside reading assignments, students trace the development of American Literature. Completion of summer project is required. Research and resulting paper are an integral part of this class.

## AP English:

## Grade 11

## Advanced Placement

## Language and Composition

**Prerequisite:** 93% in English II Honors and/or Dept. Approval

*Students selecting this class are **required** to take the AP Language and Composition exam at the end of 11<sup>th</sup> grade.* As stated by The College Board, “Academically talented, imaginative students who read with finesse and write with clarity and style, who are curious and responsive to academic risk-taking, and who are not deterred by hard work are those whom schools will want to support as members of Advanced Placement classes.” As mandated by the College Board, the class will focus on “studying and writing various kinds of analytic or argumentative essays on nonliterary topics.” *Research papers are required. Completion of a summer project is required.*

## English: British Literature

## Grade 12

## College Prep

Tracing the development of literary traditions, students come to recognize literary styles and devices. Analysis of genres for historical and literary development is an integral focus of the course, which concentrates on representative British authors as well as literature representative of an age. Students hone expository, analytical and argumentative writing skills. Completion of an argumentative or analytical research paper is an integral part of the course. Summer reading is required.

## English: British Literature

## Grade 12

## Honors

## **Prerequisite:** 92% in

**English III Honors and/or Depart. Approval. 95% in English III CP and Depart. Approval**

Designed for students who have already distinguished themselves by their effort and ability, this course offers a comprehensive study of English Literature. Emphasis is placed on college-level analysis and interpretation of literature. Cognitive skills acquired in the previous three years are developed further with stress on ability to draw on individual aptitude rather than on group consensus. College level vocabulary studies, multiple argumentative and analytical essays, projects, research papers, and formal oral presentations characterize the course. *Completion of a summer project is mandatory.*

## AP English: Composition

## Grade 12

## Advanced Placement

## Literature and

Students selecting this class are required to take the AP Literature and Composition exam at the end of

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12<sup>th</sup> grade. In this accelerated class students will “learn to discover meaning in literature by being attentive to language, image, character, action, argument, and the various techniques and strategies authors use to evoke emotional responses from readers.” Writing tasks are meant to lead students to insights into a work of literature or, alternately, to record some insight into human behavior to which the work has led the students. *Weekly analytical/argumentative essays, multiple research papers and cooperative projects comprise this course. Completion of a summer project is required.*

## **Reading and Study Skills Grade 9-12 Remedial**

**Minor:** This course provides a variety of methods to help students improve their reading, writing, and study skills. An array of reading and writing genres will be covered including content area reading skills and strategies. Emphasis on study skills will continue throughout the school year. Students will be placed into this class as a result of low standardized test scores, placement test, results, and/or teacher recommendation.

## **Reading Strategies Grade 9, 10 Remedial**

This class is an in-depth reading class for students in need of remedial help with their reading and writing skills. Students will concentrate on reading comprehension, vocabulary, and writing skills. Study skills, organizational skills, as well as test taking strategies will be covered throughout the year. Students will be placed into this class as a result of low standardized test scores, placement test results, and teacher recommendation. This class is a full high school course and will take the place of a foreign language during 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

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