

English and Language Arts 2022-2023

The English classes at Hettinger High School are designed around a large variety of skills and areas at which the students may learn to excel and feel a satisfying comfort level.

Since the national and state tests include grammar and reading sections, our classes focus on mechanics, usage, grammar, and on literature. These will be evident in their composition skills for writing and speaking, across the curriculum.

The students sign a contract the first week of school which gives them high expectations and reviews procedures. They are also made aware of a mid-term test which covers the first portion of the semester. It is all in a multiple-choice format on which they may use notes to give them a reward for taking and organizing those aforementioned notes. The semester test then completes their second half of notes and instruction before the Christmas break.

The major focus first semester is on grammar and composition basics with some vocabulary/spelling and capitalization/punctuation interspersed with the more important usage units. Some of these emphasize fun along with the skills they learn for life-long use.

The second semester will conclude a cumulative unit on grammar and sentence structures before they focus on literature. On literature they will have to study as they are not allowed to use notes. They will concentrate on

classics, Shakespeare, figures of speech, and reaction writing.

This year I am not requiring a research paper for any of my classes, but they will have a short unit on how to design one. With the help of librarian Ms. Obert, we will review the procedures and terminology and emphasize the finished product.