

Brunswick School Department  
English Language Arts  
Grade 12 Preparatory English IV

### **Course Overview**

The course will focus on the literacy skills necessary for college and career readiness. Students will receive direct instruction in grammar and vocabulary development, close reading, writing, and speaking. In addition to studying fiction, poetry, speeches, and drama, the study of literature will explore the various modes of rhetorical expression—narration, analysis, cause and effect, comparison and contrast, and argumentation. Writing assignments will include rhetorical analyses, literary analyses, narrative essays, and argumentative essays. All students are required to successfully complete a research paper

### **Essential Understandings**

- Reading a wide variety of literature and literacy nonfiction offers insights into the human condition and serves as models for students' own thinking and writing.
- Writing is a means of asserting and defending claims, displaying knowledge, and conveying experiences and feelings. This ability to communicate is vital to career, college, and life experiences.

### **Brunswick Priority Standards and Performance Indicators**

(as based on the Maine Learning Results)

#### **P.S. ELA-1 Language: Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.**

- a. Notice and correct grammatical and mechanical errors in writing.
- b. Demonstrate command of correct sentence structure and variety.
- c. Apply standard usage to formal speaking and writing.

#### **P.S ELA-2 Reading Analysis: Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.**

- a. Evaluate the relevant themes and synthesize how they are present in the novel in oral and written responses.
- b. Interpret the implications of setting and circumstance.
- c. Analyze the role of characters in the plot in oral and written responses.
- d. Analyze important quotations from the text in oral and written responses.
- e. Annotate the text.

#### **P.S ELA-3 Reading Craft and Structure Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text in which the rhetoric is particularly effective, analyzing how style and content contribute to the power, persuasiveness or beauty of a text.**

- a. Understand SOAPStone: Speaker, Occasion, Audience, Purpose, Subject, Tone.
- b. Analyze the plot and/or design of the text, following shifts in time and place.

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**P.S ELA-4 Writing Analysis: Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.**

- a. Select and limit a debatable thesis.
- b. Research evidence using credible sources.
- c. Select an appropriate organizational plan.
- d. Acknowledge alternate sides of a position.
- e. Apply the standards of English conventions.
- f. Apply persuasive strategies.
- g. Create a Works Cited for evidence used.

**P.S ELA-5 Writing Craft: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.**

- a. Create an effective introduction.
- b. Use showing details v. telling details.
- c. Maintain a focus on the main idea throughout the body paragraphs.
- d. Write an effective conclusion.

**P.S. ELA-6 Research-based Writing: Compose research-based writing to examine a topic through the selection, organization, analysis, and synthesis of relevant content.**

- a. Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources.
- b. Assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the task, purpose, and audience.
- c. Integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and overreliance on any one source .
- d. Follow a standard format for citation.
- e. Select and limit an appropriate topic.
- f. Take notes using a minimum of three sources.
- g. Prepare an outline and multiple drafts
- h. Write a Works Cited page.
- i. Write a strong introduction and conclusion.
- j. Include precise, effective quotations that directly correspond to the main idea.

**P.S. ELA-7 Speaking and Listening: Engage effectively in well-reasoned exchange of ideas**

- a. Attentively listen to the words of a speaker.
- b. Summarize what someone has said.
- c. Defend, refute, or challenge the ideas of others.
- d. Use evidence to support a position.
- e. Organize ideas clearly and logically.
- f. Use annotations of the text to contribute to class discussion.

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**Examples of Formative / Summative Assessments**

- In-class reading (both silent and aloud)
- In-class discussions
- In-class writing
- Short take-home writing exercises
- Portfolios
- Presentations
- Quizzes and tests
- Language practice and word games
- Guided close reading exercises
- Guided annotation (for select readings)
- Independent annotation
- Vocabulary and grammar exercises
- Narrative, non-fiction and argumentative essay writing
- Compose basic literary analysis
- Compose a clear, original, research-driven paper
- Compose a college essay
- Synthesize information from at least three sources in a formal, written composition or presentation

**Sample Texts and Materials/Resources**

*A Study in Scarlet* Sir Arthur Conan Doyle  
*Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* Mark Haddon  
*The Things They Carried* Tim O'Brien  
*Drown* Junot Diaz (selections)  
*Into the Wild* Jon Krakauer  
*This Boy's Life* Tobias Wolff  
Selections from *Hamlet* Shakespeare  
Selections from *If I Die in a Combat Zone* Tim O'Brien  
"Redeployment" from *Redeployment* Phil Klay  
*Little Miss Sunshine* film  
*We Were Soldiers* film  
*Sherlock* BBC television  
*This I Believe* ed. Jay Allison and Dan Gedimn  
*What I Know Now, Letters to My Younger Self* Ed. Ellyn Spragins  
*The Moment*  
Selected short stories, essays, poems and TED talks, (various authors)  
ChompChomp and Grammar Bytes (online language resources)

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