

English 12

12th grade English is the pinnacle of high school and a period of preparation for college, careers, and life outside of high school. English 12 has been broken up into two 1/2 credit sections: 1/2 credit for all seniors and the other 1/2 of the year the students are able to select electives which include Creative Writing, Theatre Arts, or Media Matters. The second 1/2 of the year is designed to prepare students for their chosen educational or career paths in the adult world in the class Senior Seminar.

Senior Seminar

For many, Senior Seminar is one of the final English classes before college, the military, the workforce, and everywhere else in between. Therefore, Senior Seminar is the course that aims to prepare students for what comes next. Unlike a standard English course focusing mostly on novels, poetry, short stories, and creative writing, Senior Seminar applies basic English skills to real-world applications. In this class students will be encouraged to push boundaries and explore beyond traditional conventions of the classroom. Thinking of modern issues, seniors will have the opportunity to interact with their learning and tailor certain elements to their own personal interests. Using English and literary conventions as background tools, seniors will construct a unique learning experience that readies them for the next step in their young adult lives. Central themes to be focused on are Personal Narrative, Self-Discovery, Modern Young Adult Issues, Perseverance, Nature vs. Nurture, Products of Expectations vs. Environments, Poverty, Race, and various links to The Modern World. The key novel of the course is *The Other Wes Moore* by Wes Moore, a novel that encompasses the notion of life's journey and finding meaning and purpose. The novel will allow students an opportunity to debate and explore both sides of life's coin -

opening their eyes and minds to some of the harsh realities the world offers while illustrating how one decision and healthy choices can shape potential and opportunity to grow. While opening the eyes, hearts, and minds of seniors, this course will bring all critical issues and themes back to one individual: the student. All seniors will be asked to reflect and ponder their own existence and purpose, digging deep to take a step towards discovering who they are and what lies ahead in their futures.

School Within a School **English Grades 10-12**

School Within a School (SWS) classes at Berlin are meant for students who have fallen behind in credits and need to get and stay caught up. SWS English classes have a heavy emphasis on getting students the skills they need in order to graduate and preparing them to enter the job world or college. To this end, we do almost all the work in class. SWS grade 10 focuses on creating a bond among students, getting them to enjoy reading and writing, and laying the groundwork they will need for grade 11. SWS grade 11 focuses on the skills students need to pass the ELA Regents, while also emphasizing enjoyment in reading and writing and critical thinking. SWS grade 12 has an emphasis on more project-based learning and self-exploration. In this class, we also develop college essays, resumes, and cover letters that can be used with minimal changes in the real-world.

Berlin High School English



2019-2020

Ms. Montgomery Breh

English 9/H, Media Matters, Senior Seminar, Sports
Literature, Yarn Heads Club

Ms. Marbot

English 10, Senior Seminar, Creative Writing, Character
Education Program, Varsity Bowling Coach

Mrs. Lamontagne

English 11, Creative Writing, Theatre Arts,
National Shakespeare Competition

Ms. Bauer

School Within a School

Mrs. Kabir

Reading Teacher

Mrs. Mooney

Reading Teacher

English 9

The 9th grade ELA curriculum strives to nourish students to become lifelong learners as well as responsible and productive citizens. Through a variety of relevant and meaningful reading, writing, listening and speaking experiences in individual, group and class-community settings, students will reach toward their greatest potential. We will use a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts, including TED talks, documentaries, articles, poems, and film clips. In addition, students will read Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer. Students will learn to make important rhetorical choices as writers, depending on purpose and audience. Finally students will engage in continuous, careful and honest reflection of their learning and growth as learners and thinkers.

English 10

The primary goal of English 10 is to integrate learning with engaging activities that promote fun ways to strengthen student's depth of knowledge regarding worldly themes. Many interesting units serve as supplements to personal exploration and interaction with literature—both classic and modern. From the shortest stories to the longest novels, with plenty of pit stops in between; we have a full load of reading and analyzing ahead of us. Lectures and notes will be taken regularly, but they are not the best way for everyone to learn. Students can be ready to get up and move around as they weave their own ideas and their own learning strategies into the dynamic curriculum. Writing is a central focus in this course and students will be encouraged to explore creative writing outlets as well as practice more formal and analytical styles of writing. Through analysis of songs, poems, short stories, novels, videos, movies, and TED Talks, students will exit English 10 with a broader mindset that is ready to

engage with the modern world. Important themes discussed throughout the year are: Self-Discovery, The American Dream, Perception vs. Reality, Morality, Ambition, Corruption, Young Adult Life, School Society, Acceptance, Violence, and Bullying. Key novels we will focus on are: *Jellieco Road* by Melina Marchetta (mandated for Honors only), *Monster* by Walter Dean Myers, *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck, *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare, and *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson.

English 11

“The New York State grade 11 curriculum...continue[s] to develop students’ skills in analyzing complex literary and informational texts



as students delve deeply into works by acclaimed authors and historical figures.... Through the study of a variety of text types and media, students build knowledge, analyze ideas, delineate arguments, and develop writing, collaboration, and communication skills.... Students read, discuss, and analyze literary and nonfiction texts focusing on how authors relate textual elements, such as plot, character, and central ideas, within a text.... Key protocols and routines for reading, writing, and discussion will continue throughout the year.... Students read, discuss, and analyze literary and informational texts, focusing on how authors use word choice and rhetoric to develop ideas and advance their points of view and

purposes.... Students engage in an inquiry-based, iterative process for research. Building on [earlier] work with evidence-based analysis..., students explore topics that lend themselves to multiple positions and perspectives. Students gather and analyze research based on vetted sources to establish a position of their own.... Students read, discuss, and analyze literary texts, focusing on the authors’ choices in developing and relating textual elements such as character development, point of view, and central ideas, while also considering how a text’s structure conveys meaning and creates aesthetic impact. Additionally, students learn and practice narrative writing techniques as they examine the techniques of the authors whose stories students analyze.” Students self-select independent books based on interests and reading levels. Students build vocabulary as well as mechanics, usage, and grammar skills. Regents practice is incorporated, and the Common Core ELA Regents examination is administered.



Media Matters

As senior students come of age in a sea of news, information, opinion, and gossip, it is imperative that they are able to discern the difference between fact, opinion, bias, and distortion. Students will delve into the tenets and complexities of journalism, through the lens of both journalist and citizen, as they work to become seekers and sense-makers in a wide range

of topics all along the political spectrum. They will study various news sources, broadcasts, and publications across many perspectives, including on social media and in the blogosphere. They will engage in a wide variety of activities and experiences that encourage them to become more active and thoughtful in their community and country—and maybe have a little fun too.



Sports Literature

From baseball to boxing - and bowling? - Americans love sports. This course will examine the varied roles sports play in our culture and lives. Using a variety of texts, including statistical data, news and magazine articles, and documentaries, students will investigate the issues that interest sports enthusiasts. Topics include concussions in football, paying college athletes, women in sports, and the intersection of patriotism in the sports industry. Students will engage in discussions, debates, and writing using evidence-based arguments, as well as be expected to demonstrate good intellectual sportsmanship on the classroom field.

Creative Writing

This course engages young authors with a variety of writing styles. Each budding young author in the classroom will be pushed to embrace individuality and uniqueness while discovering his/her authorial voice. Writing is both an individual and a collaborative process - and it must be practiced consistently to truly discover style and skill. Through this course students will write every day, creating a portfolio of work that showcases the individuality and creative nature that lies within everyone. Units of interest are:

Freestyle Writing, Short Story Writing, Illustrated Writing, Investigative Writing, Play Writing, Poetic Writing, and Expressive Writing. To engage with all styles and write on a daily basis, students in this class possess Writer's Notebooks to record their thoughts and ideas. Hopefully, along the journey of this class, all students will find a method of self-expression as they discover their voice and the power of creative thought.



AP Literature and Composition

The AP English Literature and Composition course aligns to an introductory college-level literary analysis course. The course engages students in the close reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature to deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure. As they read, students consider a work's structure, style, and themes, as well as its use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone. Writing assignments include expository, analytical, and argumentative essays that require students to analyze and interpret literary works. Students also read self-selected independent books based on interests, reading levels, and common AP books. Vocabulary and grammar are also studied. AP test practice is incorporated, and the AP test is the first week of May. A separate final exam will be given at the end of the year (for juniors, this is the Regents).

Commented [1]: +kmontgomerybreh@berlincentral.org Can you check that I have the right Sports Literature?
Assigned to Kristen Montgomery Breh

Commented [2]: _Marked as done_

Commented [3]: _Re-opened_
Looks awesome! Boy you are tech savvy!

Reading

Reading class is designed specifically for students with significant reading deficits who benefit from small group/ one-on-one student-teacher interaction and instruction. The goal is to teach reading strategies inside the classroom that will help students become more competent and confident readers. The hope is to change reluctant and struggling readers into lifelong readers who read not only for information and necessity, but who also develop a love of reading that will last a lifetime.

In our classes we help students achieve this through multiple and diverse differentiated and adaptive methods including direct explicit teacher-led instruction as well as online programs calibrated specifically to address each student's individual needs. The class instruction includes:

- ★ Building phonemic awareness to improve decoding and reading fluency
- ★ Building a better understanding of words by learning their origins and recognizing the roots, prefixes, and suffixes and their meanings
- ★ Building comprehension by delving into vocabulary through the texts we read and through the use of programs such as Membean
- ★ Increasing word recognition, fluency, and comprehension by encouraging regular sustained independent or guided reading inside and outside of school through a variety of texts including newspapers, magazines, books, and online programs

such as Core5, Powerup, CommonLit, Readlive, ReadTheory, and NewsELA

