

# Edmond Public Schools

## English Pre-Advanced Placement

### Pre-AP Philosophy

**Pre-AP English is offered in grades 8-11 and provides for the development of a continuum of skill building from one grade level to the next. Pre-AP instruction offers an academic choice that exposes students in an early and consistent fashion to essential academic skills as well as to more mature, higher-level analytical reading, writing and thinking skills. Pre-AP English will place a greater responsibility on students for academic progress.**

### What is Pre-AP English?

- A course to prepare motivated students for the challenges offered by AP and other rigorous academic classes.
- A course to encourage student responsibility, academic independence, and individual intellectual growth.

### Who is successful in Pre-AP English?

- Students who read at or above grade level and can keep pace with the Pre-AP reading schedule.
- Students who consistently score Proficient or Advanced on the Reading OCCT.
- Students who write at or above the Proficient level and show competency using the traits, modes, and organizational structures of writing.
- Students capable of advanced research, independent reading and synthesis, Internet inquiry, and skilled academic writing.

- Students who have — or desire to develop — analytical thinking skills, an independent work ethic, and self-discipline.
- Students/guardians who understand the importance of prioritizing, i.e., balancing school attendance, Pre-AP-level study, extracurricular and family activities, and rest.

### What will Pre-AP English students do?

- Read deliberately and thoroughly, taking time to understand a work's complexity and its depth of meaning.
- Engage in careful reading and critical analysis of fiction and nonfiction.
- Consider the significance of a work's structure, style, theme, figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone.
- Intensively study representative works from various literary genres and historical periods.
- Analyze text by making textual observations,

establishing connections, and drawing inferences in order to interpret the author's viewpoint.

- Write well-developed analytical essays in expository and persuasive modes.
- Write in response to both fiction and informative texts on topics from literature, science, and history.
- Engage in close, skilled reading of prose from a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts.
- Participate in a variety of discussion groups in order to speculate, interpret, and raise questions in analysis of text.
- Use standard English grammatical conventions with increasing skill and sophistication.
- Develop stylistic maturity in prose writing, e.g., word choice; sentence structure; logical organization and coherence; specific elaborative detail; voice; and effective use of rhetoric.

### \*8th Grade Reading List :

- The Diary of Anne Frank (drama)
- The Outsiders S.E. Hinton
- The Pearl John Steinbeck
- Chasing Lincoln's Killer (nonfiction) James L. Swanson

### Addition for Pre-AP:

- Fahrenheit 451 Ray Bradbury OR
- Unwind (campus option) Neal Shusterman

### Supplemental Options

(Teachers may supplement above reading list with selections from the following list.)

- Adventures of Tom Sawyer Mark Twain
- Bruiser Neil Shusterman
- Selections from comedies by William Shakespeare
- The Once and Future King T.H. White
- Giants: The Parallel Lives of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln John Stauffer

**\*As per Board Policy (BP3600), parents may request an alternate book or selection if they prefer their child not read one of the selected books.**

Students should have had practice in analyzing content, drawing comparisons, and reasoning through problems. They must be able to read perceptively and independently at or above grade level. Additionally, students will need to be proficient in writing clear, concise essays at or above grade level. Students who are not skilled in these areas must be even more highly motivated to make up deficiencies independently at the same time they are taking more rigorous courses. The earlier students prepare for Pre-AP/AP courses by taking the most rigorous classes available, the more likely will be their success. The keys to success are motivation, self-discipline, and academic preparation. Please review reading list above in the right-hand column. Books will be available for review at open houses and throughout the school year as requested.

***I have read the guidelines, reviewed the book list, and accept the challenge for inclusion in the Pre-Advanced Placement English class.***

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_