

## Elevated English Grades 9-12

Instructor: Mrs. Amanda Piasecki, M.Ed.

Email: [amanda.piasecki06@gmail.com](mailto:amanda.piasecki06@gmail.com)

### Course Description:

This course will cover grammar, composition, and literature analysis as well as an introduction to research writing and formatting. In literature we'll discuss the 7-basic plots of all literature and learn how to do a close reading using various techniques. Literature units will include: short stories, literary non-fiction, informational reading, modern classics, Romeo and Juliet, and The Great Gatsby. In grammar, we'll use Easy Grammar Plus to hone our skills in grammar identification, dissection, and editing. Writing will cover the 5 basic types of composition: Narrative, Expository, Analytical, Rhetorical, and Research. While our research unit will focus on MLA formatting, we will also touch on APA as well as the differences and uses for each. This class is made to be dynamic and interactive. Each class session will be packed with learning and fun. Throughout the year students will have a chance to participate in: mock trials, Socratic Seminars, Writer's Workshops, mock commercial/ ad creating, Shakespearean Retellings, book clubs, and more.

This class is created to be an all in one ELA class for high school students grades 9-12. Homework will be assigned each week to ensure understanding of the topic and progress towards mastery. If students complete all work, this class should count as an ELA credit for most umbrella schools.

### Schedule:

High School English Enrichment classes will meet the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Friday of the month from 9am-12pm. We will follow the same Fall, Winter, and Spring breaks as Sumner County schools. If Sumner County is closed for inclement weather, we will be closed as well. Class will meet on:

August—8th, 22nd

September—12th, 26th

October—24th, 31st

November—14th, **21st\***

December—12th

January—9th, 23rd, **30th\***

February—13th, 27th

March—27th

April—10th, 24th

May—8th, 22nd

\*These classes will meet outside of regularly scheduled week/time from 12:30pm-3:30pm.

**Virtual Office Hours:** Office hours will be offered the 3rd Friday of every month (unless otherwise stated in class) from 2-3pm. Students will need to email the instructor by the Wednesday of that week to sign-up for office hours. This time is meant to serve as extra support from the teacher in between class sessions. More office hours may be added during our research unit. These office hours will take place over a zoom link which will be shared with registered students of the class.

**Supplies:**

- Three prong binder (2-inch)
- Loose-leaf notebook paper
- 4-5 dividers \*\*optional to divide literature units
- Pens (blue, black, and red ink—used for writer’s workshops)
- #2 Pencils (lead or standard)
- Highlighters (green, yellow, blue, pink, and orange—used for close reading and writing structure)
- Post-it notes
- Required whole class texts (ISBN will be shared closer to time to ensure all students are on the same page for class discussions)
- Grade level texts (these will be assigned “outside reading” and students will often select from a list). These lists will be made available prior to each unit. Students are welcome to purchase these or borrow them from the library.
- Grammar text (this will be assigned by grade level to be a companion to our in-class Easy Grammar Plus, this will be selected and announced closer to time)

**Grading System:** As a homeschool parent, you have the flexibility and right to grade however you deem best for your student. The instructor will offer suggested grades based on student submitted coursework to help the student progress towards mastery of a topic. When grading, the instructor will offer feedback, corrections, and/or suggested edits. Students are encouraged to work through these notes and make the changes. Parents/ guardians are welcome to factor in these corrections when determining their student’s final grades. **Please note: The parent or guardian will be responsible for any official recording or submission of these grades or materials to gain credit with their umbrella school.**

The following represents a general breakdown of how the student will be assessed:

- Quizzes: 5-50 points (including reading quizzes)
- Grammar work and corrections: 10-40 points
- Projects: 10-50 points (unless otherwise stated)

- Tests:100 points
- Essays and Papers:100-200 point

Grading scale:

93-100%=A

85-92%=B

75%-84%=C

75% or lower–student is encouraged to work through the instructor’s feedback to gain more understanding of the topic

All grades will be recorded and available for view in our Google Classroom. Parents/ Guardians are welcome to do what they deem best with the suggested grades.

### **Expectations:**

1. **Be prepared for class.** Be prepared to discuss and have fun! Each class will have interactive elements that only work if you’ve read or done the outside assignments.
2. **Be respectful.** Discussions, mock trials, socratic seminars, debates, and more can spark some interesting conversations. Don’t be afraid to share your opinion, just be sure to share it in a respectful way and offer respectful responses to other people’s ideas.
3. **Have your class materials.** You’ll always need something to write with, something to write on, and our current text. Without at least these fundamentals, it will be difficult to participate in class.
4. **Submit your assignments and review your feedback.** Submit your assignments to Google Classroom on time so that the instructor has time to offer feedback. The feedback is meant to help you grow and progress towards mastery, so take time to review the feedback.
5. **Ask for help.** If you ever feel unsure about something or don’t understand a topic, don’t hesitate to reach out. Office hours are a great way to get face time with the instructor in-between sessions, but feel free to also email if more immediate assistance is needed. You can also try asking your questions in Google Classroom to get peer feedback.

### **Coursework:**

Each class will have grammar instruction, writing instruction, a discussion or focus on a literature topic, and an interactive enrichment activity! Classes will include fun elements like: mock trials, your 2 cents discussions, gallery walks, mock commercial and skit writing, body biographies, creative writing workshops, Shakespearean retelling skits,

and more!

Each week students will be responsible for:

- Grammar lessons (approximately 3 worksheets or corrections per week, this is subject to change)
- Reading assignment (this will vary by grade level and by unit)
- Reading assessment (quiz, summary, or discussion questions)
- Writing assignment (this will be a scaffolded approach toward our final writing assessment of that unit)

The instructor will assign and assess work in the hopes that students will progress towards mastery of their grade level standards. The workload is reasonable and is meant to cover all material necessary for an ELA credit by the end of the school year. Parents/ guardians are encouraged to discuss progress with their student and connect with the instructor should they have questions or concerns.

### **Grade level differentiation:**

Elevated English is an all in one ELA program for grades 9-12. Students will be given differentiated assignments to ensure they work on an ability appropriate level. Each unit will have an in-class assigned reading and an “outside” assigned reading suggested by grade level. It is up to the parent and student to decide which level would work best for them. The instructor is happy to offer suggestions or confer on this individually.

Ex: During our short story unit our whole class will focus on only two short stories, one of which is “The Most Dangerous Game”. Our class time and discussion as well as our Mock Trial will all focus mainly on “The Most Dangerous Game”. However, during this time, students will also be assigned an “additional” or “outside” reading. They will have lists available with at least 2 suggested short stories for each grade level. They, along with their parent/guardian, can choose which short story they feel is right for them. The instructor will have assessments available for each story and will grade accordingly.

### **Google Classroom:**

Google Classroom is the Learning Management System (LMS) used by this instructor. This is a free and secure tool for students to use. Assignments, discussions, quizzes, and tests will all be found and recorded via Google Classroom. This tool is how the instructor and students can connect in-between class meetings. Students will receive grades, suggested edits, and feedback on their work regularly. Students are

encouraged to check their Google Classroom weekly for assignments and instructor feedback.

\*\*As with any technology and internet access, parents/guardians are encouraged to monitor this usage as they see fit. Google Classroom is secure and can only be accessed by using the teacher code that will be shared with registered students and their adults. In addition, all participants in the classroom must be approved by the instructor. If a parent has any concerns or questions regarding Google Classroom security or usage, please contact the instructor.

\*\*As with any online work, there is an element of trust and supervision required. The instructor assumes that the parent/guardian will be taking measures to ensure that the work completed by their student is done in an honest manner.

### **About the teacher:**

Our high school English Language Arts class is taught by Mrs. Amanda Piasecki. Mrs. Piasecki has a BS degree in English Literature from Austin Peay State University and a MEd in Instructional Practice from Lipscomb University. Her thesis work focused on writing instruction for grades 8-12 by utilizing writer's workshops in the classroom. Before becoming a homeschool mom, Mrs. Piasecki was a High School English Teacher at Lipscomb Academy. For the past several years, Mrs. Piasecki has also taught nature classes to preschoolers. She is a Tinkergarten trained and National Geographic Certified educator.

### **Teacher Contact:**

Mrs. Piasecki can be reached by email at [amanda.piasecki06@gmail.com](mailto:amanda.piasecki06@gmail.com)

Should a parent have concerns or questions, they may email to the above or call or text: 931-624-3634