English 4

Course Goals

# Goal 1:

## Expand your abilities and desire to explore literary and rhetorical texts.

# Goal 2:

## Become practiced creating thoughtful, sophisticated, deliberately organized compositions.

# Goal 3:

## Cultivate the spirit of an excellent student.

Goal 1: Expand your abilities and desire to explore literary and rhetorical texts.

# Objectives:

* Apply close reading strategies to gain insights into a variety of American literary texts
* Understand the aim of literature and track the development of a literary idea through a text
* Understand what a poem is and what poems aim to do and practice discovering meaning in them
* Read and carefully deconstruct the technique of rhetorical texts
* Know the five elements of a narrative and use them for basic analysis
* Understand how diction creates denotative, connotative, and figurative meaning and why this matters
* Identify and describe important literary techniques, especially use of:
  + Metaphor
  + Arrangement
  + Sound
  + Irony
  + Paradox
* Appreciate the differences reading for pleasure, aesthetic, and rhetorical value
* Name and describe foundational works of literature and rhetoric in American history
* Identify, describe, and apply the ethos, pathos, and logos approaches to argument
* Discern point of view behind literary and informational texts and how this affects understanding it
* Discover reliable news sources and understand media biases

Goal 2: Become practiced creating thoughtful, sophisticated, deliberately organized compositions.

# Objectives:

* Gain an understanding of how the writing process works both in your head and as you write.
* Master a personal writing process that creates quality work
* Become an experienced writer in a variety of forms:
  + Expository
  + Narrative
  + Persuasive
  + Poetic
* Know the elements of grammar and syntax, especially parts of speech, types of clauses, and sentence patterns
* Grow in the practice of reading literature and rhetoric as a writer
* Understand and pick up on ironic or satirical writing -- see the tension between meaning and intent
* Respond to critical writing about literary and rhetorical texts
* Know how to do informal, non-academic research without a library or librarian
* Increase the working vocabulary you use for your compositions

Goal 3: Cultivate the spirit of an excellent student.

# Objectives:

* Take academic ownership of your skills, knowledge, habits and behavior
* Become comfortable in confusion and appreciate the value of the question
* Persist in reading difficult and/or extended texts
* Work through areas of confusion without giving up
* Read continuously in at least thirty-minute periods
* Read actively a continuous text of more than 300 pages
* Persist in writing complex and developing ideas
* Use writing itself as a tool to develop sophisticated ideas, then review for thesis or theme
* Apply writing strategies to clarify writing, making revision a natural practice
* Achieve a comfort level in presenting information to a class
* Know how to prepare for and participate in Socratic seminars and other forms of in-class discourse
* Know and practice how to engage authentically with an English class