

High school students continue to develop physically, emotionally, and intellectually; and most make efforts to express their individuality and independence. Never-the-less, they need guidance in these endeavors and continued emotional and intellectual support to prepare for college and careers. While language skills are advanced beyond the middle grades, students require continued assistance in analyzing and interpreting advanced informational and literary text and continued development in the use of conventions of Standard English. In designing instruction to help all students achieve success, careful consideration should be given to addressing the individual learning needs of students. This can be accomplished by including a variety of instructional strategies such as projects, demonstrations, and collaborative learning groups; by conducting formal and informal assessments to provide continual feedback regarding student progress; and by utilizing all available technology for both teacher and student use. These strategies are especially important during the high school years for preparing students to experience the independence and demands of higher education and careers.

To become college and career ready, students must grapple with works of exceptional craft and thought whose range extends across genres, cultures, and centuries. In addition to the analysis of literature at advanced reading levels, students analyze and interpret historical documents aligned to content in history or social studies classes—documents such as the Magna Carta, the Declaration of Independence, Washington’s Farewell Address, and the Gettysburg Address. Shakespearean plays are studied in at least three of the last four years of high school, sometimes involving a comparison with language and literature from other countries and eras.

The refinement and extension of reading skills include analyzing how characters in fiction develop over the course of time and advance the plot or theme and how authors of informational texts develop claims and use rhetoric to advance a point of view. Other reading skills include the examination of authors’ craft such as the effect of specific word choices and the use of satire and irony. Standards for informational text require that students evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media or formats.

Writing and editing skills that will be needed in college and careers are refined as students develop claims and counterclaims, use precise language, and create a coherent whole with an appropriate tone. A command of formal English is demonstrated in both students’ writing and speaking. They must come to appreciate that language is as much a matter of craft as of rules and be able to choose words, syntax, and punctuation to express themselves and achieve particular functions and rhetorical effects. Students must integrate multiple sources of information in order to make informed decisions and solve problems. This requires that they evaluate the credibility and accuracy of each source and note discrepancies among data. They must have the flexibility, concentration, and fluency to produce high-quality, first-draft text under a tight deadline as well as the capacity to revisit and make improvements to a piece of writing over multiple drafts when circumstances encourage or require it.

From The Alabama Course of Study

Grades will be based on the following:

Weekly vocabulary tests from Wordly Wise and Classical Roots
Quizzes based on assigned readings
Grammar Quizzes and tests
Tests on outside readings
Selection Tests on assigned readings
Essays-including brainstorming, outlining, and all drafts
Research Paper
Short and extended written responses to critical thinking questions
Interactive Reader Annotations
Presentations/recitations

Outside Reading

1st nine weeks---*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred Taylor
The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne
2nd nine weeks---*Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare
And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie

Class Supply List

3 ring binder
paper for binder
tabs for binder
pencils
highlighters
flash drive