

Placement Guide: English Department

Fundamentals of English	Intermediate English	HS English 1/2	HS English 3/4
Written Communication:			
Students will begin with single paragraph essays and progress to 5 paragraph essays	Students are expected to begin with 5 paragraph essays and finish the year with a multi-page research paper	Entering students should be comfortable writing multi-page essays, and will progress to 1500+ word essays	Students should be skilled writers, able to produce 1500+ word essays comfortably.
Oral Communication:			
Students will be required to give at least 1 oral presentation to the entire class, and work within small groups for discussion.	Students will present at least 3 oral presentations to the entire class and should be comfortable participating in small group discussions.	Students should be comfortable giving oral presentations, work fluidly in small groups, and participate in teacher-led debates.	Students should be able to formulate an argument and participate in civil and respectful student-led debates.
Text Analysis:			
Students should be able to answer questions using text evidence	Students should be able to infer information from the text	Students should be able to engage in analysis and comparison	Students will be working to connect literature with real-world scenarios
Grammar and Vocabulary:			
Students will receive direct instruction in grammar and should be prepared to apply grammar skills to their own writing.		Students are expected to have a good grasp of grammar and be able to proficiently apply those skills in their writing.	
At each level, students will be expected to acquire increasingly complex vocabulary			
Language Complexity:			
Students should be able to read and comprehend passages similar to the following:			
“Fret not, my son. None of us is perfect. It is better to have crooked legs than a crooked spirit. We can only do the best we can with what we have. That, after all, is the measure of success: what we do with what we have.” – A Door in the Wall	“They have chosen cunning instead of belief. Their prison is only in their minds, yet they are in that prison; and so afraid of being taken in that they cannot be taken out.” – The Last Battle	“A river, amber-tinted in the shadow of its banks, purred at the army's feet; and at night, when the stream had become of a sorrowful blackness, one could see across it the red, eyelike gleam of hostile camp fires set in the low brows of distant hills.” – The Red Badge of Courage	“His warrior band did what he bade them when he laid down the law among the Danes: they shouldered him out to the sea's flood, the chief they revered who had long ruled them.” - Beowulf
Students should be able to write sentences similar to the following:			
The fish shimmered in the stream.	The sun set behind the mountains, painting the sky with shades of orange and purple	Amy Cartwright, known for her determination and kindness, worked tirelessly on her community project.	In “A Tale of Two Cities”, Dickens masterfully juxtaposes the stark contrasts between London and Paris during the tumultuous period of the French Revolution.

*If you are unsure about appropriate placement for your child, at-home placement tests are available on our website