



**VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
CHARTING THE COURSE

***Department of Teaching & Learning***  
***Parent/Student Course Information***

***Honors English Grade 9***  
***(LA1132)***

*Counselors are available to assist parents and students with course selections and career planning. Parents may arrange to meet with the counselor by calling the school's guidance department.*

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The Honors English 9 course focuses on developing the students' critical and analytical language skills. The units of study involve a thematic focus while examining various genres and essay writing.

Students begin with a writing unit and throughout the year integrate skills in reading, writing, speaking/listening, critical thinking, media, persuasion, research, and problem solving. Writing instruction focuses on composing and written expression through central idea and position, organization and unity, evidence and details, conclusion, flow, and word choice. Grammar, usage, mechanics, and vocabulary are integrated into each unit throughout the school year. Student's writing and performance-based assessments are stored throughout the year, and during the final unit, students select pieces for their writing portfolio. The contents of the portfolio illustrate how each student has grown and improved as a writer throughout the year.

As students study literature, they analyze elements of narration with a more critical lens and approach the impacts and interactions of plot, setting, characterization, conflict, theme, and point of view. While studying epic, drama, and novels, students examine literary skills and complex rhetorical techniques such as subplots, multiple themes, character development, and multiple settings. Through examination of a broad range of nonfiction material, the students learn about a writer's purpose and subjectivity or objectivity in any given work and analyze how texts compare and contrast.

Honors extensions are provided throughout the school year. Deeper thinking is encouraged through examination of higher-level texts and deeper connections. Extension options also include adding research components, presenting, or defending thoughts, revising writing to improve sentences/structure and deepen vocabulary, examining authors and individuals and what influences them, utilizing quoted material, developing literary critiques and creating unique media messages.

**PREREQUISITE**

Successful completion of English/Language Arts 8 or Advanced English 8 and a teacher recommendation.

**OPTIONS FOR NEXT COURSE**

Enrollment for the next English course should be based on student performance, teacher recommendation, and parent input. The courses available are English, Grade 10 and Honors English, Grade 10.

**REQUIRED STUDENT TEXTBOOK**

*Actively Learn*, electronic resource

**9TH GRADE VIRGINIA BEACH STANDARDS AND OBJECTIVES ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

Visit the Virginia Department of Education website to access the English 6 Standards of Learning

[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards\\_docs/english/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/english/index.shtml)

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Virginia Beach City Public Schools  
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Produced by the Department of Teaching and Learning. For further information, please call (757) 263-1070.

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*Title IX Notice: Complaints or concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of sex or sexual harassment should be addressed to the Title IX Coordinator at the VBCPS Office of Student Leadership, 641 Carriage Hill Road, Suite 200, Virginia Beach, 23452, (757) 263-2020, [Robin.Resse@vbschools.com](mailto:Robin.Resse@vbschools.com) (student complaints) or the VBCPS Department of School Leadership, 2512 George Mason Drive, Municipal Center, Building 6, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23456, (757) 263-1088, [Robert.Wnukowski@vbschools.com](mailto:Robert.Wnukowski@vbschools.com) (employee complaints). Additional information regarding Virginia Beach City Public Schools' policies regarding discrimination on the basis of sex and sexual harassment, as well as the procedures for filing a formal complaint and related grievance processes, can be found in School Board Policy 5-44 and School Board Regulations 5-44.1 (students), School Board Policy 4-4 and School Board Regulation 4-4.3 (employees) and on the School Division's website at **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion/Title IX**. Concerns about the application of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act should be addressed to the Section 504 Coordinator/Executive Director of Student Support Services at (757) 263-1980, 2512 George Mason Drive, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23456 or the Section 504 Coordinator at the student's school. For students who are eligible or suspected of being eligible for special education or related services under IDEA, please contact the Office of Programs for Exceptional Children at (757) 263-2400, Plaza Annex/Family and Community Engagement Center, 641 Carriage Hill Road, Suite 200, Virginia Beach, VA 23452.*

*The School Division is committed to providing educational environments that are free of discrimination, harassment, and bullying. Students, staff, parents/legal guardians who have concerns about discrimination, harassment, or bullying should contact the school administration at their school. Promptly reporting concerns will allow the school to take appropriate actions to investigate and resolve issues. School Board Policy 5-7 addresses non-discrimination and anti-harassment, Policy 5-44 addresses sexual harassment and discrimination based on sex or gender. Policy 5-36 and its supporting regulations address other forms of harassment.*

*Alternative formats of this publication which may include taped, Braille, or large print materials, are available upon request for individuals with disabilities. Call or write Virginia Beach City Public Schools, 2512 George Mason Drive, P.O. Box 6038, Virginia Beach, VA 23456-0038. Telephone 263-1070 (voice); fax 263-1424; 263-1240 (TDD) or email her at [Erin.Mullins@vbschools.com](mailto:Erin.Mullins@vbschools.com).*

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