



## Frequently Asked Questions

### English

#### What does the course entail?

The English Language Arts Course at John Rennie explores the complexities of communication. Through reading, evaluation, and critical analysis of varying texts, students learn to respond to ideas and extend their understanding. They learn to think critically about the information that they receive and about the messages that they choose to communicate. Starting in grade seven, the students study language, poetry and works of fiction to gain an understanding of the literary devices and techniques that are a part of writing. As the student advances, they will learn to alter language and structure to suit their message and their intended audience. By the end of SEC V, the student will be able to write responses, essays and articles of their own, reflecting their exploration and evaluation of a topic.

#### What Grade levels is this course offered at?

This is offered in all Grade levels.

#### What evaluation methods are used for this course?

Evaluations vary by competency from traditional, formal production and presentation to creative endeavors that reflect student learning in non-traditional formats. Examples include a formal essay, or debates as traditional methods, to flipgrip responses, slam poetry, and a fine art response to the text. Whatever the method the assessment, criteria are made clear using rubrics. The final exam in grade eleven includes a reading response and the production of an article.

#### What are the competencies for this course?

English is evaluated via three competencies: talk, reads and listens to texts, and producing texts.

#### Is this an option course?

No, English is mandatory in all grade levels in High School, and students must sit a provincial exam at the end of Grade 11 to graduate from High School. Actors Studio and Drama are both electives.

#### What materials are required for this course?

Basic materials are needed, personal novels/ reading material is always recommended.

## **How do you help students who are struggling?**

The focus will be on the individual student and their needs. The support levels include: teacher remediation, literacy and resource support. Strategies may include more time, adapted work, specialised computer programs to aid understanding, for example text to speech and peer tutoring.

## **What opportunities are provided for enrichment?**

All classes will use regularly: Chromebooks, Smart-boards/smart TV, within that the Google suite. Some other options in use are: flip-grid, jam-board, and padlet.

## **What resources are used for this subject?**

Six periods out of a six day cycle for the standard English program. Three periods out of a six day cycle for Sports Etudes.

## **How often is this course offered?**

6 classes per cycle in all Grade levels. Sport Etudes 5 classes per cycle