Chaparral High School | English Department

Philosophy

Our purpose is to develop students as writers, readers, and thinkers. We believe that learning is on a continuum and celebrate students' growth. We see every student as an individual, challenge each other as a department, and work together to find the best ways for students to thrive.

Cornerstones

Sustained reading, development of writing skills, exploring curiosity, asking questions, and self-advocacy

Opportunities

- **General Education** *(9th-12th grade)*
  - Focus on recursive process of writing, individual growth, connection with material, choice, and applicability
  - Skill Development: Develop as writers, readers, thinkers
  - Supports within General Education:
    - Co-Taught Supported Classes (9th and 10th grade)
    - Content Read/Write to support students on READ plans (9th and 10th grade)
- **Honors** *(9th and 10th grade)*
  - Teacher recommendations are encouraged, but if a student wants to try honors, they can!
  - Summer reading and three novels per semester
  - Develops self-direction, academic stamina, and analysis
- **Advanced Placement (AP)** *(11th and 12th grade)*
  - Pass rates exceed DCSD and national pass rates
  - Whole-student approach and opportunities for self-direction
- **Concurrent Enrollment (CE)** *(11th and 12th grade)*
  - Arapahoe Community College classes are paid for by the College Opportunity Fund
  - Students have the opportunity to attain 12 college credits over the course of 11th and 12th grade.

Homework Expectations

For incoming students, the amount of homework is often a concern. We don't assign busy work; everything has a purpose and builds toward skill growth and progression. It is a common practice to provide class time for students to start their assignments and ask questions.

Electives

- **Newspaper and Journalism (Concurrent Enrollment)** provides students a course for developing their interpersonal skills as well as research and writing skills. They will learn about press law and how to incorporate feedback during the revision process in reporting and writing. Publishing their work in newspaper class gives students an authentic audience with an opportunity for Chap community feedback.
- **Creative Writing 1 & 2 (Publishing Opportunity)** provides an opportunity for students to explore their creative voice, write, and create. A variety of assignments and writing prompts encourage students' growth as creative writers in multiple genres.
- **Speech and Debate (Lettering Opportunity)** provides students the opportunity to speak about and debate complex issues in a competitive setting. As an Outstanding Chapter of the National Speech & Debate Association, we have a variety of formats that allow students to develop their speaking skills and find their voice. Students compete against other schools at tournaments, which are typically held on weekends. Students are also able to earn an Activities letter in Speech & Debate.
- **Public Speaking** provides students the opportunity to hone their speaking skills and develop confidence through a variety of speech types and delivery styles. The ability to communicate effectively is an essential life skill.
- **Literature of Film I & II** provides the opportunity for students to see how filmmakers convey plot, character development, and theme via cinematic techniques. Students engage in a number of writing and discussion-based activities to analyze films. In Film II, students also create their own short films.