This curriculum guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of English III. While this is an overview, your child’s actual experience may differ from this guide depending on your child’s individual needs. This guide focuses on the key skills your child will learn, which will build a strong foundation for success in other subjects and in future learning opportunities. If your child is meeting the expectations outlined in this curriculum guide, he or she will be well prepared for English IV or AP Literature.

How can I help?

You should use this guide as a resource to gain an understanding of the key skills that will be introduced and/or mastered by your child this year. This will help promote a better understanding, as well as allow for a strong relationship to be developed with your child’s teacher. Regular ongoing dialogue about teaching and learning, beyond parent-teacher conferences, is expected and desired.

At home, you play an important role in setting and reinforcing high expectations for your child, while providing support for your child in meeting them. If your child needs additional help or wants to learn more about a topic, work with his or her teacher to identify opportunities for support or to find additional resources to supplement the learning. High expectations do not just surround the content being learned. Your conveyed expectations should also surround the development and use of the following soft skills: effective time-management, persistence and perseverance, self-confidence, growth mindset, productive use of constructive criticism, thinking critically, exhibiting independence, and being motivated.
English III

This class will read and explore American literature chronologically. We will reflect on how it has shaped who we are as Americans today. We will also analyze the many themes that American writers focus on. Students will write a research paper and present an argumentative speech on the same topic. They will also write a literary analysis essay.

This class will also prepare students to take the ACT and SAT tests in the spring. A major focus of this course is analyzing American writers’ differing styles so that students are able to use these techniques in their own writing.

A sample of skills to be gained:

- Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account
- Provide an objective summary of the text
- Analyze the impact of the author’s choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text
- Determine an author’s point of view or purpose in a text in which the rhetoric is particularly effective, analyzing how style and content contribute to the power, persuasiveness or beauty of the text.
- Analyze a complex set of ideas or sequence of events and explain how specific individuals, ideas, or events interact and develop over the course of the text.
- Analyze how an author’s choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text contribute to its overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact.

List of primary sources for learning:

- Selections from Pearson Literature Textbook
- *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest J. Gaines
- *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry
- *Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger
Help your child learn at home

As you invest in your child in many different ways each day, take the following things into consideration as you invest in his or her learning. These strategies will have a direct impact on the learning of your child at home.

- Create a suitable place for learning at home to be completed.
- Create a daily routine and stick to it as much as possible.
- Work with your child on their homework on a regular basis. Have them start the homework on their own and then provide assistance when asked. When they ask for help, try utilizing the following prompts to help them think through their learning.
  - What do you remember from the learning activities in school?
  - Is there a place that you can reference that will help you?
  - What do you think would help?
  - Explain to me what you are struggling with.
  - What do you think you should do next?

It is important to help your child work through the answer, not just provide them with the answer. This process is extremely important in helping your child develop strategies that can be used whether he or she is with you or not.

Additionally, here are some activities you can do with your child to support learning at home:

English III

- Ask your student about what they are reading in class. Have them give you a summary of the reading.
- Encourage your student to define unfamiliar words and phrases through the context of the story first.
- Remind your student that if they are struggling or concerned about an assignment they should e-mail me so I can better support them.
- Encourage your student to read books for enjoyment outside of class.
- Read over their essays and provide them feedback on the clarity of their writing.