

English Electives: Speech, Creative Writing, Yearbook, and Leadership in Media

Informational Session

for Rising 9th, 10th, 11th & 12th Graders interested in taking English electives

Speech I-II

- For students wishing to develop and hone speaking and listening skills aligned with Common Core.
- **Primary objective:**
 - > Students will build public speaking confidence and competence through preparing and performing a variety of speeches, including impromptu, persuasion, debate, and even entertainment.
- **Additional objectives:**
 - > Evaluate: Ted Talks, peers, film
 - > Write/Organize: appeals, argumentation, outlines
 - > Research: print and media sources
- As a performance-based class, students must intentionally plan and continually rehearse their speeches in order to improve and succeed.
- Feedback – teacher (rubrics) & peers

Creative Writing I-II

- For students wishing to develop and enhance their writing, critical thinking, and digital media production skills as well as their ability to collaborate effectively.
- **Genre Focus Points:** Poetry, Creative Nonfiction, Short Fiction, Drama
- **Common to Both Classes:**
 - > Independent and collaborative writing
 - > Focus on self-reflection and self-evaluation of creative work
 - > Vocabulary study to enhance language resources
- **Progression from I to II:**
 - > CWII students build upon skills developed in CWI. Students will add to their repertoire of writing techniques and strategies; assignments increase in challenge/sophistication. Creative Writing II is an Honors course.
- ***The Inkblot*:** GHHS Creative Writing program literary journal -- available through the *Falcon News Feed*. Used by both classes to showcase work, but with varying expectations & criteria.

Yearbook I-III

- For the student interested in writing, photography, design, & school involvement.
- **Primary Objective:** Produce a quality yearbook where the majority of the student body is included.
- **Life skills learned:**
 - > Leadership
 - > Communication (involves interviewing, writing, speaking, listening)
 - > Marketing and Sales
 - > Design
- This is a year-long class; the student receives two credits. Honors credits earned after the first semester on the staff. Applications can be picked up in 3318 from Ms. Weeks.
- **OPEN TO 10-12 GRADES ONLY**
- This is not an “easy-A” class; it involves tremendous dedication. However, it is rewarding when the students see their work in print. The right type of student LOVES this class.

Leadership in Media Honors I,II

Primary Objectives

- As a staff, students in Leadership in Media Honors will contribute to and maintain the *Falcon News Feed*, the online school newspaper.
- Students will learn the mechanics and style of journalistic writing, collaboration, and leadership skills

Scheduling

- Although this course may be taken for one semester only, joining the *Falcon News Feed* staff usually means a multi-year commitment. Students receive a credit for the course each semester.
- Applications are available at <http://falconnewsfeed.com>

Class Content

- While some class time is reserved for staff meetings, discussions, and directly engaging with the media, the majority of the class time is dedicated to writing. Potential staff members need to be interested in writing, photography, videography, current events, school surroundings, and interacting with others.