

Bountiful High School

Sophomore Traditional & Honors English Guide for Students and Parents

Class of 2023, welcome to Bountiful High! We are thrilled to have you join our tribe and we're confident you will find BHS a great place to "B." At Bountiful High, we want every student to achieve his/her personal best; this is most likely to happen when a student is placed into classes appropriate to the his/her needs, abilities, and interests.

We offer two levels of English classes in tenth grade:

- **Traditional English** – This class provides a rigorous curriculum that meets the needs of the majority of students.
- **Honors English** – This class is designed for students who excel in English and require a faster-paced, more in-depth, and challenging course of study.

Both traditional and honors classes have the following attributes:

- Follow a rigorous curriculum, including assigned homework.
- Require students to work toward mastery of the Davis DESK Standards.
- Develop critical thinking skills.
- Require students to write argumentative essays, narratives, responses to literature, and summaries.
- Provide opportunities for students to improve listening and speaking skills through Socratic Seminar and presentation delivery.
- Read a variety of novels from the DSD approved book list.
- Use the same textbook.
- Utilize technology to help improve reading and writing skills.

Honors classes differ from traditional classes in the following ways:

- Depth and complexity of study is deeper.
- Student work is more frequently independent of teacher assistance.
- Pacing is quicker.
- **Early reading ("summer" reading) is required: The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho must be read before September 7th.**
- Additional reading is required (five novels in Traditional English; seven novels, plus an additional summer novel, in Honors English – to be completed before Sept. 7th).
- Course reading is done as homework rather than during class.
- Writing is more sophisticated (stronger vocabulary, more complex and varied sentence structure, greater depth of thought and analysis) and more extensively researched.
- Grammar techniques are more sophisticated and complex.

When students enter tenth grade Honors English, they are expected to be able to demonstrate most (though perhaps not all) of the following skills:

- Synthesize multiple texts in a multi-paragraph, thesis-based essay.
- Identify and state the function of the eight parts of speech in sentences.
- Identify and state the function of a subject and predicate in a sentence.
- Describe the impact literary devices have in a work of literature.
- Make connections between a written passage and historical events, current events, and personal experiences.
- Discover common and recurring themes across texts.
- Recognize the elements that contribute to an author's style.

If Sophomore Honors English is for you, we expect you to finish reading The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho before September 7th. If you need to check out a copy of the book from Bountiful High School, you may do so in our main office during the summer.

We can't wait for you to "B" a Brave.

Sincerely,
The Bountiful High English Department