

English

English

Mount Madonna School is committed to preparing students to communicate effectively in college and beyond using the English. A rigorous study of literature and encouragement of creative writing skills allow students to see beyond the surface of a text and appreciate deeper meanings. All students in high school are invited to read their creative writing before the community at the school's annual Creative Writing Reading. Students study literature from many cultures and periods of history throughout the program, while grounding their studies in the classic canon of literature. The program emphasizes self-reflection and discovery through dialogue.

Goals of the English Program

In persuasive writing, graduates can substantiate their opinions with supporting details, research, facts, and descriptions. Students can bring their reader into an experience, and show, rather than tell, the reader a perspective. Students utilize craft, structure, transitioning, sentence fluency and proper grammar.

Students have skills in the formation, structure, and relationship of sentences, paragraphs and complete essays. Students understand the writing and revision process. As analysts of literary works, students can use figurative language as well as a broad vocabulary of literary terms to approach literature concretely and abstractly. In addition, students understand their own connections to literature and the context and filters through which they read. Students have knowledge of multiple genres of literature including works from their own and different cultures, and both contemporary and classic works. Graduates of the program are adept at inferring meaning in literature and understand the relationships between plot, character and theme.

As authors, students can explore their identity and that of others through storytelling. Students can interact and communicate in their community and classroom competently, sharing personal ideas and analysis and listening to the ideas of others. Students use voice and word choice with intention to express themselves through writing. Students are comfortable with ambiguity and expand their continuum of reactions and responses to life through writing and storytelling.

Structure of the Program

In middle school, all students take English class 4-5 periods each week. This continues through the high school years, with the addition of a Creative Writing elective for grades 9 - 12. Starting in grade 10 students have the option of taking Honors English. Our honors classes meet the UC requirements for honors designation. In grade 11, students have the option of taking English for Advanced Placement credit; the course follows the recommended College Board AP Curriculum and students completing the work are eligible to take the AP exam for college credit.