

April 2014

Dear Parents of Incoming Freshmen:

Congratulations on your child's acceptance and welcome to the Jesuit community!

As an English student at Jesuit High School, your child will learn to build language skills that will foster an appreciation of literature and ensure competence in reading, writing, listening and speaking. The literature and language skills we teach will ultimately present a compelling case for your child to lead a moral life as a man or woman for others.

The best step you can take to prepare your child for English classes at Jesuit is to encourage as much independent reading as possible. Encourage your child to read broadly in a variety of genres and to read with care. Make a variety of reading materials available. Read a book with your child and share your impressions of what you are reading.

Ninth grade English teachers will select novels, poetry, and other materials designed to prepare students for success during their years at Jesuit and beyond. The English Department has developed a curriculum plan that ensures incoming freshmen the foundation to pursue the college preparatory program through the senior year of high school.

Ninth grade students will write in various modes including reflective journaling, writing in response to text, and formal essay writing. English I will also introduce students to the basics of grammar and public speaking.

Your child can expect approximately 30 minutes of English homework each night. You can help your child budget homework time and organize their active lives. Over the years, disciplined study habits have created success for many Jesuit students. The department expects students to complete all assigned work on time in a responsible manner. Students who procrastinate in their daily work and who cram for two or three hours prior to a test or assigned due date rarely produce their best work.

You will find competent professionals in the English Department who are dedicated to teaching literature and language skills as well as Ignatian values. We look forward to working with you and your child.

Sincerely,

Tim Sprehe  
English Department Chair