

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

At St. Mary's Academy, each grade level focuses on specific essential questions that connect to a wide range of diverse texts and thematic units of study. Additionally, across the grade levels, students are exposed to a variety of forms of writing which include but are not limited to: persuasive, narrative, expository, and creative. Students are also provided the opportunity to present and create using technology. Independent reading study across each grade also allows students to deepen their curricular knowledge, enhance their vocabulary and build reading stamina. Each course is further enhanced with an integrated grammar program and opportunities to develop strong critical thinking and analytical skills.

Grades 11 and 12 have the options to take Transactional Focus, Comprehensive Focus, Literary Focus and AP English.



In my years at St. Mary's Academy, I was what you could describe as eccentric, which this wonderful school went out of its way to encourage. I am forever grateful for the teachers, resources, and the safe space created for me to flourish in my areas of interest, done so with enthusiasm and validation. I love going to the school to visit new students and pass along the same encouragement I had always received. If there's any phrase that I hope will inspire other artists out there just flexing their wings: Finished Not Perfect. There is no such thing as lost time when it comes to art. There is no limit on how many times you can go back and refine something. All that matters is you ride the wave of your passions all the way to the end, so you can have something you're proud of to share with the world.

– Samantha Beiko '07

"As a fourth-year university student, I can't begin to adequately describe just how much of an impact SMA's English program has had on me, both within the classroom and beyond. When I first arrived at university, I found I was already extremely well-equipped with the necessary skills to be a strong academic writer, making my transition into university-level academics easier. My high school English teachers were not only highly effective and knowledgeable, but their enthusiasm for English also helped me discover my own love of writing; something I continue to pursue to this day."

– Bethany Kolisniak '19

