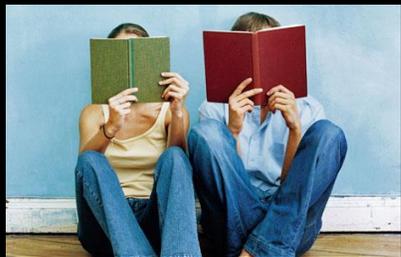




Welcome to the St. Thomas Aquinas
English Department



The English curriculum at St. Thomas Aquinas focusses on the four basic communication modalities: listening, speaking, reading and writing, as well as viewing and representing. These are the skills on which literacy is based.





The curriculum aims to help students become successful, lifelong language learners who will:

- Understand that language learning is a necessary, life-enhancing, reflective process
- Communicate effectively and with confidence
- Make meaningful connections between themselves, the texts they read, and the world around them
- Think critically
- Understand that the opinions and points of view in both written and visual texts must be recognized, questioned, assessed and evaluated
- Appreciate the cultural impact and creative power of texts
- Use language to interact and connect with individuals and groups, for personal growth and for active participation as world citizens



Through a variety of reading activities, students are exposed to materials that reflect the diversity of Canadian and world cultures, including those of Indigenous peoples.

Students also become familiar with works of recognized writers from their own and earlier eras.

By reading a wide range of materials and being challenged by what they read, students become exposed to new and widely varying ideas and perspectives, and they develop their ability to think independently and critically.



The English program in Grades 9 to 12 includes compulsory courses and optional courses in several different academic pathways. All our course offerings can be viewed on the school website: <https://www.dpcdsb.org/AQUIN/guidance-courses/course-calendar>. Click on “Guidance/Courses,” then “Course Calendar” and scroll down to “English.” Click on any course for a fuller description.

In the Intermediate Grades (9 and 10), these courses are offered at the following levels:

- Locally Developed
- Applied
- Academic

In the Senior Grades (11 and 12), these courses are offered at the following levels:

- Workplace
- College
- University



Locally Developed level courses provide foundational literacy and communication skills to prepare students for success in their daily lives and, ultimately, in the workplace. The focus of these courses is on developing listening and talking skills, reading and viewing skills, writing skills and on using language clearly and accurately in a variety of authentic contexts.

Applied level courses focus on the essential concepts of a subject and develop students' knowledge and skills through practical applications and concrete examples. Familiar situations are used to illustrate ideas, and students are given more opportunities to experience hands-on applications of the concepts and theories they study.

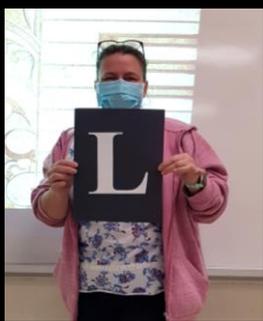
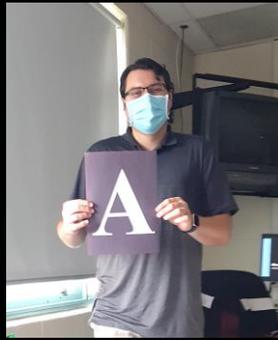
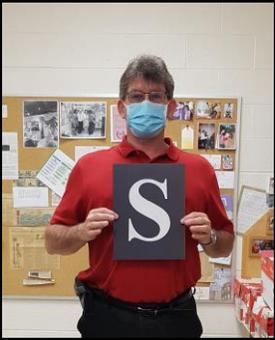
Academic level courses develop students' knowledge and skills through the study of theory and abstract problems. The courses focus on the essential concepts of a subject and explore related concepts, as well. They incorporate practical applications as appropriate.



Workplace level courses are designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills they need to meet the expectations of employers, if they plan to enter the workplace directly after graduation, or the requirements for admission to many apprenticeship or other training programs.

College level courses are designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills they need to meet the requirements for entrance to most college programs or for admission to specific apprenticeship or other training programs.

University level courses are designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills they need to meet the entrance requirements for university programs.



Thank you for your attention.

Enjoy the rest of your evening.

