



**VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
CHARTING THE COURSE

***Department of Teaching & Learning***  
***Parent/Student Course Information***

***Advanced English Grade 7***  
***(LA1116)***

*Counselors are available to assist parents and students with course selections and career planning. Parents may arrange to meet with the counselor by calling the school's guidance department.*

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Advanced English 7 provides a variety of opportunities in reading and writing through students' examination of various genres, authors, characters, people, and themselves. This course is organized around the overarching theme of choices and reflects a variety of encounters with literature: non-fiction, short stories, novels and excerpts, myths/fables, narrative non-fiction, and media. Major goals of the seventh-grade program include: strengthening writing and organization, reading comprehension, critical thinking, and research along with developing effective communication through group discussions and oral presentations. The students use the writing process to develop expository, narrative, reflective, and persuasive writing. Through writing instruction, students learn to analyze their own writing, and set goals to improve their composing and expression, and grammar, usage, and mechanics. The students continuously revise and edit their work as they build their writing. Additionally, they begin to read and write critically in response literature.

Writing, reading, discussion, performance-based assessments, and classroom presentations require that the students move beyond literal recall of facts to an interpretation of literature with cooperative written response. Students are provided opportunities to examine various purposes for writing and to consider how writers make choices based on audience, purpose, and format.

Advanced extension options are provided throughout the school year within each unit. Deeper thinking is encouraged through these extensions which encourage students to examine higher level texts and make deeper connections. Some extension options include: adding research components, presenting or defending thoughts, revising writing to improve sentences/structure and deepen vocabulary, examining real-life choices and situations that influence choices and connect to characters, utilizing quoted material, developing literary critique and unique media messages.

At this grade level, students take a Reading Test for the English Standards of Learning.

**PREREQUISITE**

Successful completion of English/Language Arts 6 or Advanced English 6 and a teacher recommendation

### **OPTIONS FOR NEXT COURSE**

Enrollment for the next English course should be based on student performance, teacher recommendation, and parent input. The courses available are Core English, Grade 8 and Advanced English, Grade 8.

### **REQUIRED STUDENT TEXTBOOK**

*Holt McDougal Literature, 7*

### **SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS**

The teacher may choose supplementary materials to extend and enrich the students' knowledge of course standards. These materials may be drawn from: supplementary novels, visual media, primary source documents, simulations, computer programs and other online educational resources.

### **7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE VIRGINIA STANDARDS OF LEARNING: ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

Visit the Virginia Department of Education website to access the English 7 Standards of Learning

[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards\\_docs/english/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/english/index.shtml)

Aaron C. Spence, Ed.D., Superintendent  
Virginia Beach City Public Schools  
2512 George Mason Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23456-0038

Produced by the Department of Teaching and Learning. For further information, please call (757) 263-1070.

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*The School Division is committed to providing educational environments that are free of discrimination, harassment, and bullying. Students, staff, parents/guardians who have concerns about discrimination, harassment, or bullying should contact the school administration at their school. Promptly reporting concerns will allow the school to take appropriate actions to investigate and resolve issues. School Board Policy 5-7 addresses non-discrimination and anti-harassment, Policy 5-44 addresses sexual harassment and discrimination based on sex or gender. Policy 5-36 and its supporting regulations address other forms of harassment.*

*Alternative formats of this publication which may include taped, Braille, or large print materials are available upon request for individuals with disabilities. Call or write The Department of Teaching and Learning, Virginia Beach City Public Schools, 2512 George Mason Drive, P.O. Box 6038, Virginia Beach, VA 23456-0038. Telephone 263-1070 (voice); fax 263-1424; 263-1240 (TDD) or email her at [Cameron.Vadersen@vbschools.com](mailto:Cameron.Vadersen@vbschools.com).*

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August 9, 2021