



March 25, 2010

Dear Roosevelt families,

We are writing to inform you of a program shift in the Language Arts department. As of next school year, Roosevelt will be offering a yearlong Advanced Placement course called Language and Composition. It will be paired with American Literature and take the place of our American Literature requirement, and will be required for graduation starting with the class of 2012. Like other LA options, the course will eventually combine 11th and 12th graders, and for this reason, next year's Juniors can take it next year or the year after that.

This change is prompted by the district's five year plan, which calls for Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses in all major disciplines in every school. Our initial concern was maintaining our program of 11th and 12th grade semester Language Arts options, which provide thematic depth through student choice. However, we believe the pairing of American Literature and AP Composition in this arrangement preserves such choice and depth. We further believe students have much to gain from the literary content and the expository, analytical, and argumentative skill-building developed through the Advanced Placement coursework, and that all students, with our help, are capable of such work.

This also means that we are starting over with Language Arts registration for current Sophomores and Juniors, who will need to make new LA course requests for next year. Students will receive a new form after break.

Class of 2011: The former semester American Lit options—African American, Asian, Early-American, Latin-American, or Modern American Lit—are no longer available. Because the AP American Lit class is not available to you either, American Lit is no longer required for graduation. Choose any semester LA option available.

Class of 2012: Consider whether you want to take the yearlong AP course Junior or Senior year. For next year, sign up either for the yearlong AP or the two semester options.

If you are interested in further information about the Advanced Placement Language and Composition course, you can find more details on the College Board's website. The first link below describes the Language course generally, and the second describes how it works with American Literature.

http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/sub_englang.html

http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/members/courses/teachers_corner/26146.html

We very much want to provide the most energizing, unifying, useful and challenging courses we can here at Roosevelt, and we think this shift will allow us to do so; but we know that change brings new questions and concerns. We will try our best to address these as they emerge. In the meantime, thank you for your patience during this curricular shift.

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