



# ST. DOMINIC SAVIO CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Forming Servant Leaders in the Image of Christ

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS INCOMING FRESHMAN STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

**\*\*\*All students should be familiar with terms and at least solid with practices. Honors students should have achieved very good-to-mastery level with most if not all of these terms and practices. Above all, student accountability to the quality of writing is a high expectation at Savio.**

### Literary Genres

- Fiction: short story, fable, myth, parable
- Non-fiction: autobiography; biography; persuasive letter, speech, or essay; newspaper article
- Poetry: rhymed, ballad, ode, elegy, haiku
- Drama

### Literary Elements

- Figurative language: simile, metaphor, personification, alliteration, assonance, consonance, rhyme, onomatopoeia, hyperbole, imagery, symbolism
- Elements of fiction: setting, conflict, character, plot structure (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution)
- Theme
- Point of view; voice differences in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> persons
- Foreshadowing
- Allusion
- Satire, irony, parody, pun
- Dialect
- Analogy
- Dialogue in fiction

### Writing

- Use of present tense in literary writing
- Writing process: pre-writing, drafting, revising, editing, publishing
- Writing on-demand: producing adequate work during timed, final draft writing (with no revision)
- Paragraphs of 7-10 sentences
- Focused, timed, and continuous free writing

**Grammar, Mechanics, and Usage**

- Parts of speech
- Subject and predicate
- Subject-verb agreement
- Types of sentences; punctuation
- Avoiding run-on sentences, comma splices, and fragments
- Sentence combining; compound and complex
  - Coordinating conjunctions
  - Subordinating conjunctions; relative pronouns; relative adverbs
  - Correlative conjunctions
- Clauses: independent, dependent, essential, non-essential
  - Dependent clauses: noun, adjective, adverb; beginning a sentence with them
- Comparative adjectives and adverbs
- Pronoun usage and case
- Direct and indirect objects
- Noun usage and case
- Verbs
  - Transitive, intransitive, linking
  - Regular and irregular
  - Tense
  - Active and passive voice (and that passive voice does have its place in writing)
  - Verbals: gerund, participle, infinitive
  - Phrases: prepositional, appositive, verbal
- Punctuation and Capitalization
  - Apostrophes: contractions, possessives
  - Periods
  - Commas
  - Colons
  - Semi-colons
  - Quotations
  - Hyphens
  - Dashes
  - Ellipses
  - Slashes
  - Titles: quoting vs. italicizing or underlining

**Active Reading Strategies: visualize, predict, connect, question, identify, clarify, evaluate**

*(ctnd...)*

**Reading/Comprehension Skills**

- Identifying main idea
- Summarizing: being substantial and succinct at the same time
- Recalling facts and details
- Understanding events
- Comparing and contrasting: characters, scenes, literary works
- Cause and effect
- Words in context
- Distinguishing between fact and opinion
- Drawing conclusions and making inferences
- Identifying author's purpose
- Interpreting figurative language

**Vocabulary and Spelling**

- Using a thesaurus
- Using a dictionary
- Spelling rules and tips
- Forming plurals
- Some word etymology: Greek and Latin
- Denotation and connotation
- Prefixes and suffixes
- Synonyms and antonyms
- Homonyms, homographs, homophones

**Research Skills**

- Note taking, summarizing, organizing
- MLA format
- Using a thesaurus
- Using academic sources online or from databases
- Awareness of scholarly journals and books (not encyclopedias)
- Avoiding plagiarism