ENGLISH 8:

*Course Description:* Through careful guided reading of thematically rich material, including classics of youth literature and traditional and contemporary poetry, students will experience the diversity of genre and richness of theme and style of world-class writing. Special emphasis will be given during discussion and student responses and projects on global responsibility, and the connection between the literature discussed and other events throughout the world,  past and present. Students will be required to incorporate daily free reading into their lives. Writing instruction will emphasize persuasive essays, analysis of literature, narrative sketches and problem solution writing. Various domains of personal writing will be collected in a representative portfolio for each student and published at the end of the year as a final project. Grammar instruction, spelling and vocabulary enrichment will proceed on a regular basis. A major research project in the heart of the academic year will focus on the fine arts, and will encourage use of online resources, a wide variety of reference materials, and allow great creativity in terms of final presentation. The art history research project will encourage students to learn about different time periods, different cultural attitudes towards aesthetics, and the variations of human experience around the world. The Common Core Standards will be followed closely, ensuring a comprehensive and enriching English program.

