

What's new in English?



English 11/12- Studies in Diversity and Multiculturalism

There is always a mix of excitement and exhaustion that come with a new class. This new addition to the English course catalogue is no exception. Despite the challenges, students are exploring perspectives of race, ethnicity, culture, and lifestyle in America and beyond. The variety of materials and social impact of the issues being tackled in the class are truly taking students on a journey of discovery both in their ability to express their thoughts and ideas and in their understanding of the world they will graduate into.



Falcon News:

The Falcon News is flapping again. Last year, former falcon Mr. Bender, students Aysiah Aguilar, Jack Polick, and Will Cushman made a monumental effort to put out multiple, well-received episodes of the Falcon News. This year, things have changed. While Mr. Cyzak and Mr. Wehr advise, a large team of students is working hard both on and off camera to put out new episodes of the popular newscast. With two episodes shown in advisories since September, production quality is increasing, word is spreading, and the critics agree. The Falcon News is poised for a fantastic 2018.



Central's 2017-2018 Forensics season kicks off this month. Forensics is a series of speaking competitions for high school students who enjoy performing in public, are passionate about a subject, like acting or poetry, or who just want to improve their skills. Our season runs from December until the state competition in Madison on April 21st. Central's home tournament is Saturday, February 17th.





English 10 Tours the Skokie Holocaust Museum

After reading the book *Night*, a memoir written by Elie Wiesel, Ms. Nicolo's English 10 students took a field trip to the Skokie Holocaust Museum. On this three hour guided tour, students enter through the black doors to experience the darkness of the Holocaust as seen through the eyes of the six million Jews who perished in this horrific conflagration through the displaying of personal belongings, photographs, historical records, and ending with a personal story by a Holocaust survivor. At the end of the journey, students exit through the white doors with increased historical empathy with the hope that they will take a stand for themselves and on behalf of others who still suffer today in their own community as well as around the world. This unique experience teaches students to act as upstanders and not bystanders in response to inhumanity.

English 10 Honors Tour Chicago

The English 10 Honors classes read Erik Larson's novel *The Devil In The White City*, which explores the true tale of the 1893 Chicago's World Fair, intertwining the story of America's first serial killer, Henry H. Holmes. Larson cleverly juxtaposes the chapters between Daniel Burnham, the brilliant architect behind the "White City," and the cunning and calculating killer Henry Holmes, creating an atmosphere of drama and suspense.

Through a guided tour by Chicago Detours, the students were exposed to the history and edifices of Chicago, the underground Pedway passages, the history of the Marshall Fields building, the church in a skyscraper, the Cultural Center, and ending the tour at Millennium Park. Students shared iPads with archival images of maps, historic photos, and documentary video clips, while tour guides shared stories of Chicago history. Looking at the outside of buildings is the first step in engaging the students with Chicago architecture. After this tour, students learned to appreciate Chicago architecture from a whole new perspective.

