BHS English Department Writing Policy

Overview: **A minimum of 5 pieces of original student work must be assigned, graded, *corrected, and filed in student writing folders in each required language arts course.** The minimum number of required multi-paragraph pieces by grade level is found below. In addition to these longer pieces, students should write shorter pieces periodically. These shorter pieces should be used as formative assessments to drive writing and grammar instruction. Shorter compositions should also be included in writing folders in addition to the required longer pieces to meet the minimum requirement. The entire writing process should be demonstrated by including brainstorming, rough drafts, graded copies, and corrected copies in student folders.

9th Grade: (3 long papers)
- Synthesis
- Research
- Narrative (Laws of Life)

10th Grade: (4 long papers)
- Synthesis
- Research
- Argumentative
- Narrative (Laws of Life)

11th Grade: (5 long papers)
- Synthesis x 2
- Research
- Argumentative
- Narrative (Laws of Life)

12th Grade: (6 long papers) Entire course is research based, culminating in a formal research paper and presentation.

CURRENT Senior English Requirements:
**Students choose one of the following themes to guide their study for the semester:** chaos and order; constructing identities; creativity, freedom and responsibility; good and evil in the world; heroes and “heroes”; the human condition/spirit; illusion vs. reality; language and literature; love and sacrifice; nature in the balance; past, present, and future; the pursuit of happiness; relationships and community; shades of truth.

8 Essays:
**Required Modes:**
- Personal Descriptive
- Definition
- Personal Narrative (Laws of Life)
- Textual Analysis
- Argumentation/Persuasive

**Additional Modes:**
- Compare/Contrast
- Process
- Cause/Effect
- Exemplification

1 Research Paper: Culmination of semester-long study of chosen theme.

1 Formal Presentation of Research to Class: Ten to fifteen minute presentation at the end of the semester.

**Defense of Senior Research:** The written Senior Portfolio will be replaced with a Defense of Senior Research. Seniors will compile a portfolio of their semester’s research from which they will develop a research paper and plan a formal presentation to their classmates. In addition, students will summarize and defend their semester-long research before a panel of faculty and staff members.