

A New Class

By: Taylor Yeager

The Legends of Literature Class is brand new to Oak Hills, and is currently taught by two different teachers during the 2022-2023 school year, Mr. Nieman and Mr. Corman. As it is the first year the class has ever been taught planning is still in the process, but here is what Mr. Nieman currently has to say about the class.



Legends of Lit allows a student to connect music to literature. In the class, students will be sharing songs that have meaning to them and comparing these songs that have impacted their lives to great literature. Literature pieces such as *Harry Potter* by J.K. Rowling and *The Lord of Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien will be discussed during class. The legends of lyric writing such as poets to songwriters will also be discussed along with the legends of literature. As music has become such an important part of life today, understanding it also is important. The class will teach a student how to understand music and art such as literature that can allow and teach people to live in the present and in the moment. It is important to teach students these lessons as they will affect their current life and their future.

The class is an English elective that is only a semester-long. The only requirement to take this class is grade level, a student must be a junior or senior. Both Mr. Corman and Mr. Nieman are fantastic teachers that bring their own respective strengths to the classroom and have similar goals for this class. Currently, there are two classes; each teacher has one class of about 50 students total. Throughout this class the only book students will be expected to read is a homemade textbook that consists of poems, songs, and news articles.

Currently, there are 6 to 9 units planned for the class. According to Mr. Nieman, “there are a total of 9 units that could be taught in the class, if all 9 will be taught and gone through in one semester is another story.” Throughout this first semester, the teachers are not only planning the class but attempting to time all units and assignments properly.

When asked why he’d want to teach the class, Mr. Nieman answered that he had wanted to teach the class for years. As he has taught poetry before; he stated that “the best way to teach poetry is to compare it with a song.” Although, as a teacher who is much older than his students another challenge is choosing songs that are relevant to them. As a result of this Mr. Nieman believes he also needs to make himself more familiar with modern music that students still can benefit from. Also according to both teachers, “the class is fun, but could teach a

student many lessons that are important to the world today.” They believe that one could benefit from the semester-long class.

For those students interested in the class, here's what you'll need to know. In order to be a successful student in the classroom, Mr. Nieman, believes one should “have an interest in lyrics and a desire to share important lyrics in their lives with the class.” These lyrics can be what they relate to or lyrics that have just impacted how they live life. It’s also quite important for a student to connection literature to their life. Along with songs, literature also is written about great life events. Songs represented in the class will be school-appropriate, so overly foul language will not be part of the classroom. Although mature themes can be included in class, songs, and literature.

For those interested in music, the legends of literature class is something to check out before your senior or junior year at Oak Hills. While filling out your class requests at the end of the school year give legends of lit a consideration. You’ll get to spend one whole semester with Mr. Nieman or Mr. Corman analyzing the structure and meaning of songs and comparing them to literature!”