



Bishop James Mahoney High School
Home of the BJM Saints

September 01, 2026

Dear Students, Parents, and Caregivers,

As many of you know, the requirements for graduation regarding English Language Arts have changed over the last few years. Instead of two grade ten, one grade eleven, and two grade twelve English courses, students are only required to take one English course per year, namely ELA 10, ELA 20, and ELA 30.

To support this change, a new provincial curriculum has been created for each grade level. The purpose of this letter is to explain some of the changes that students can expect within ELA 10, 20, and 30. While the ELA90 curriculum has remained the same, some of the language below will be introduced in grade nine, and this letter will describe what students might expect once they reach grade 10.

The major shift of the new curricula is towards process based learning. This process of learning includes a receptive portion (where students read, view, and listen to material) and an expressive portion (where students create material). There are also outcomes that include reflection, collaboration, and revision. Rather than the focus always being on the end product, students will be assessed on the process of interacting with and creating material.

Many steps of this process will be happening in the classroom, which makes attendance on a regular basis more important than ever. While some absences are unavoidable, it can be difficult at times to catch students up on parts of this process even when they are absent for legitimate reasons. Support will be provided when absences are necessary, but regular absences can hurt a student's ability to be successful.

Language that will be used in these classes include the different genres of writing (descriptive, expository, poetic, persuasive, and narrative) and different modalities (written, oral, visual, and multimodal).

Teachers will discuss these elements with students as the year progresses, but we wanted to provide a brief introduction to the new courses. These courses are also available for your viewing on the [Ministry of Education Website](#). If you have any questions or concerns about this, please feel free to contact Bobby Williston, the BJM ELA department lead.

Welcome (back) to BJM!

Sincerely,

Bobby Williston

ELA Department Lead

Bishop James Mahoney High School

rwilliston@gscs.ca