

Changes bring

new opportunities

English department adds more fine arts

By: Abby Harris

Standarized tests. OGT. SAT. It's those tests that are on everyone's minds. The English department was stronger than ever because of different programs that were changed for the students. Read 180 was just one program added to the English department to help benefit students.

"Read 180 helps students prepare for standardized tests like the ACT and SAT," said **Mrs. Beth LeBlanc**.

English classes in the past have always studied vocabulary to prepare for standardized tests, but, throughout the year, the English department made sure that English teachers followed new guidelines to prepare students. Sophomores were given writing

prompts weekly to get ready for the OGT.

"Teachers help sophomores review and practice for the OGT by going over writing prompts that help them improve their writing," said **Donald Herrington, 10**.

Many new programs were introduced. English teachers of academic classes had their students take the majority of quizzes and tests online. Students were required to send in their answers from quizzes and tests using the digital dropbox on the online database. Allowing students to take quizzes and tests online helped them learn dialogues and improve reading comprehension.

Fine arts played a huge part in English courses. Each grade level saw a different play based on different types of literature. Teachers felt that adding fine arts to programs would help entertain students and give them a break from the usual methods of teaching.

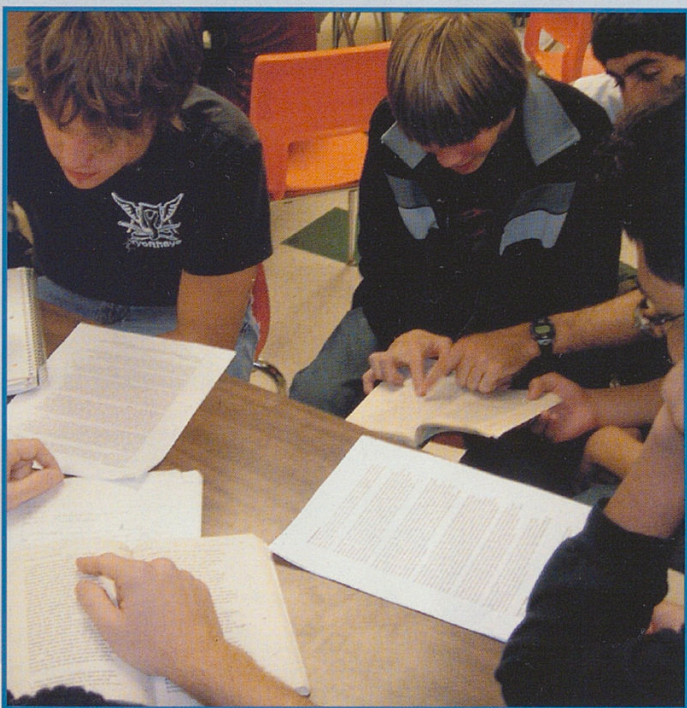
"Adding fine arts to programs has given students the opportunity to learn in a distinct way," said **Mrs. Melissa Wolfe-Izworski**, department supervisor.

Not only did the fine arts play a tremendous role in changes to the English department but they also helped the theatre program. Theatre was changed because of new teacher, **Mr. John Whapham**. He encouraged students to get involved with his theatrical plays.

"Mr. Whapham is doing new and innovative things to interest students to get involved with theatre," said **Mr. James Tinsley**.

The sophomore debates were one of the perks of being a sophomore. Having the opportunity to debate against peers and classmates, sophomore classes successfully prepared for debates. The sophomore debate, this year, was arguing for or against the school's code of conduct. There were many accomplishments throughout the year like the annual academic fair, where students proved to dominate.

"English is an amazing subject. The fun activities in class kept me coming back for more. Go Aves!" said **Jennifer Owens, 12**.



WHILE JOTTING DOWN NOTES FOR ENGLISH, **BRIAN Tellijohan, 12**, discusses the class novel with other classmates. **Mrs. Liz Gonda** asked her students to gather into groups to discuss novels. Seniors had a lot of freedom in her class because they were able to pick their own groups.

The English department likes to change things up a bit.

-**Mr. Christopher Kloesz**