****ASM English Department Philosophical Statement**:

The ASM English Department aims to develop an appreciation of the beauty of language, and the manner in which we create meaning through its explicit and nuanced use. We engage students by interacting with texts both critically and through rhetorical and literary analysis, and also place an emphasis on the historical, social, and philosophical perspectives inherent in the work.

Students work towards meeting the standards set by both the Advanced Placement in Language and Composition, and the Advanced Placement in Literature and Composition courses, as determined by the College Board. This ensures that we integrate skills of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and critical thinking when analysing poetry, nonfiction, drama and prose.

We encourage students to embrace life long learning and to see literature as a key component of this. Literature never loses value; it not only has historical relevance, but also contemporary value.

Upon graduating from ASM, students will be fully equipped to cope with the rigors of tertiary education in a communicative, creative, and insightful manner.

**Grading Scheme**

Our grading scheme is designed in order to transition students from the expectations of primary education through secondary and into tertiary. Therefore, we look to increase the weight assigned to major pieces of work as a student moves up through the school.

We divide our grades into four sections:

Major Assignments and Tests: This comprises of large essays\*, reports\*, projects\*, and tests.

*\*This work is modelled extensively, and students are given ample time to complete it (a minimum of one week).*

Minor Assignments and Quizzes: This comprises of summaries and analyses of sections of texts being studied, journal entries, components of major homework (e.g. Essay plans, 1st drafts, portions of a reading guide).

Classwork: This comprises of work done in class, such as debates, in class writing responses, and note taking.

Participation points: Students are awarded 25 participation points at the start of the trimester, and receive further bonus points for showing good character, playing a critical role in discussions, engaging well with material, and performing above expectations. Points are deducted for tardiness (-1 when a student is less than 2 minutes late, and -2 for any further lateness. This does not detract from any further consequences given for excessive tardiness such as detentions and in school suspensions, as determined by the administration). Points can also be deducted if a student fails to participate in class, disrupts the class, or fails to uphold the values that ASM has stipulated in its character guides.

Grades 11 and 12:

Major Assignments and Tests = 70%

Minor Assignments and Quizzes = 15%

Classwork = 10%

Participation Points = 5%

Grades 9 and 10:

Major Assignments and Tests = 50%

Minor Assignments and Quizzes = 25%

Classwork = 20%

Participation Points = 5%

Grades 6, 7 and 8:

Major Assignments and Tests = 40%

Minor Assignments and Quizzes = 30%

Classwork = 25%

Participation Points = 5%

The amount of work given per semester can be flexible based on the Unit being covered, and the needs of the particular class. However, there should be a minimum of 3 major assignments, 10 minor assignments, and 2 pieces of classwork per trimester.