

Virginia Ballard teaches the Advanced Placement junior English classes. She received a bachelor of arts in education from Kansas State University with focus in English and journalism. Her first teaching assignment was in Colby, Kansas, where she was named "Outstanding Young Educator." She also taught at Thomas Jefferson High School in Dallas (her own high school), where she was awarded the "Jim Collins Award for Excellence in Teaching." After moving to Houston in 1987, she taught at Kingwood and Milby high schools before coming to HSPVA. She was HSPVA's Teacher of the Year in 1996. For six years she graded essays for the national Advanced Placement Test of English Language and Composition, and for several summers she taught sessions at the College Board's Advanced Placement Summer Institute. When she is not grading student essays, she teaches Pilates, takes ballet classes—for which she has a passion but absolutely no talent—and trains her Labrador Sulley in agility and dock diving.

Email: vballard@houstonisd.org