

Welcome back to a new school year! To assist with better understanding your child's schedule, please review this document to gain a sense of the Language Arts courses offered at each grade level for regular education students. Placements for special education students are determined by the student's IEP team; these placements could include courses listed below or be extended to include more specialized programs.

**6th and 7th grade**

Language Arts classes are offered as a block in 6th and 7th grade. There are two levels of programming that are available, based on students' needs. All students will be assigned to a Language Arts block which meets daily for 80 minutes for the full school year.

<p><b><u>Advanced Language Arts</u></b></p>	<p>This course is designed for advanced readers and writers. It stretches students to engage in text that is written above grade level and requires students to routinely engage in critical thinking needed to analyze and evaluate text. Additionally, students receive instruction in grammar and writing during this course.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Criteria to be placed in this course includes consistent demonstration of above grade level ability as documented by teacher observation and data collection (standardized and non-standardized), and/or GIEP.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Integrated Language Arts</u></b></p>	<p>This course is designed for on-level readers and readers who are approaching grade level. Students will engage in text that is written at grade level; students will be provided with vocabulary development, and be taught to apply various reading strategies to assist with engaging in critical thinking related to reading. Additionally, students receive instruction in grammar and writing during this course.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some sections of the course may be co-taught.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Literacy Lab</u></b></p>	<p>This course is a reading intervention program that is <u>scheduled in addition to a student's Language Arts block</u>. It concentrates on skill building in the areas of reading comprehension, vocabulary, and critical thinking. A technology-based program designed to actively engage students in reading fiction and nonfiction text is utilized throughout this course.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Placement in this intervention program is based upon data collection (standardized and non-standardized) which demonstrates that reading comprehension is below grade level. Teacher recommendations that further support the collected data are also considered.</li> </ul>

### **8th grade**

Unlike the programming for 6th and 7th grade students, Language Arts classes in 8th grade are NOT “blocked”. Every student will be assigned an English course which will meet daily for 40 minutes for the full school year. Additionally, every student will be assigned a Reading course; one of the courses meets daily for 40 minutes for the full school year, but the other meets daily for 40 minutes for half of the school year.

#### **8th grade English offerings:**

<b><u>Advanced English</u></b>	<p>This course is designed for advanced readers and writers. It stretches students to engage in text that is written above grade level and requires students to routinely engage in critical thinking needed to analyze and evaluate text. Additionally, students receive instruction in grammar and writing during this course.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Criteria to be placed in this course includes consistent demonstration of above grade level ability and achievement as documented by teacher observation and data collection (standardized and non-standardized), and/or GIEP.</li></ul>
<b><u>Integrated English</u></b>	<p>This course is designed for on-level readers and readers who are approaching grade level. Students will engage in text that is written at grade level; students will be provided with vocabulary development, and be taught to apply various reading strategies to assist with engaging in critical thinking related to reading. Additionally, students receive instruction in grammar and writing during this course.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Some sections of the course may be co-taught.</li></ul>

#### **8th grade Reading offerings:**

<b><u>Critical Literacy</u></b>	<p>This course is designed for proficient readers. It meets daily for half of the school year. During the other half of the school year, students receive an introduction to foreign languages (30 days each of Spanish, French, and German). The Critical Literacy class moves at a fast pace and engages students in analyzing and responding to text that is written at and above grade level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Placement in this course is based upon consistent demonstration of reading ability that is at or above grade level as documented by data collection (standardized and non-standardized) and teacher observation</li></ul>
<b><u>Academic Literacy</u></b>	<p>This course is designed to build vocabulary and reading comprehension skills so that students may grow to reach grade level proficiency in the area of reading. It meets daily for the entire school year. This class focuses on delivering direct, explicit instruction on reading skills and strategies, provides vocabulary development, and provides opportunities to respond to text through writing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Placement in this course is based upon demonstration of reading ability that is below grade level as documented by data collection (standardized and non-standardized) and teacher observation.</li></ul>