

## **Advanced English Language Arts Grades 7-8**

### **Course Description:**

#### **Advanced English Language Arts 7**

Eng 7 H/Adv 200002

Prerequisite: 6<sup>th</sup> grade English

Advanced English Language Arts 7 provides students with a challenging curriculum that is aligned to the Alabama Course of Study for English Language Arts. At the advanced level, students will use a wide variety of text to increase their use of critical thinking skills. The curriculum moves at an accelerated pace with a more concentrated focus on independent reading, writing, analysis, and problem solving. The primary goals of the course are to foster independent learning and encourage in-depth exploration of the content. Outside and summer reading/writing assignments are required.

#### **Advanced English Language Arts 8**

Eng 8 H/Adv 200004

Prerequisite: 7<sup>th</sup> grade Regular or Advanced English Language Arts

Advanced English Language Arts 8 provides students with a challenging curriculum that is aligned to the Alabama Course of Study for English Language Arts. At the advanced level, students will use a wide variety of text to increase their use of critical thinking skills. The curriculum moves at an accelerated pace with a more concentrated focus on independent reading, writing, analysis, and problem solving. Opportunities are provided for students to develop questioning and research strategies that assist them in organizing and presenting information in oral, visual, and written formats. The primary goals of the course are to foster independent learning, encourage in-depth exploration of the content, and build the skills necessary for the transition to high school. Outside and summer reading/writing assignments are required.

### **Curriculum:**

Laying the Foundation English 7

Laying the Foundation English 8

### **Required Teacher Preparation:**

Laying the Foundation English 7 Years 1-3\*

Laying the Foundation English 8 Years 1-3\*

\*Year 1 training should be completed prior to teaching Advanced ELA. LTF Years 2-3 training should be completed in subsequent years.

## Criteria to Recommend Placement:

The intent of advanced courses at the middle school level is to extend the depth, knowledge, analysis and rigor of academic content by challenging students and preparing them for advanced courses in high school. Students enrolled in advanced courses must recognize and understand that they will be responsible for extended academic responsibilities and expectations, which may include a more challenging work load as well as additional writing and reading assignments inside and outside of class. In order to be recommended for Advanced English Language Arts Grades 7-8, students should meet the criteria below.

### \*Criteria to Recommend Enrollment in Advanced English Language Arts Grade 7

- ACT Aspire 5<sup>th</sup> grade scores (*These are the most recent scores available.*)- **420 or higher in Reading**
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade English Class Grades (current school year, first semester grade)- **80% or higher**

### \*Criteria to Recommend Enrollment in Advanced English Language Arts Grade 8

- ACT Aspire 6<sup>th</sup> grade scores (*These are the most recent scores available.*)- **421 or higher in Reading**
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade English Language Arts Class Grades (current school year, first semester grade)- **80% or higher**

### \*Students who meet only one of the criterion above, but not both, should be

- assessed using a third **district approved local screener** for reading. Current year results from the most recent administration of the screener are acceptable for use.

#### **District Approved Local Screeners**

Global Scholar Reading  
STAR Reading  
IStation Reading  
i-Ready Reading  
Compass Reading

- Students who are identified as performing on current grade-level or proficient in reading on this screener (in addition to meeting one of the above criterion), should be recommended for Advanced English Language Arts.

## **Recommendation Letter for Advanced English Language Arts**

Students who are recommended for Advanced English Language Arts classes should be given a copy of the **Recommendation Letter for Advanced Middle School Courses: *Advanced English Language Arts 7-8***. The purpose of this letter is to provide parents and students with information regarding the responsibilities and expectations of advanced courses. The letter should be signed by the student and the parent and should be kept on file at the middle school.

### **Students who are not recommended for placement:**

The recommendation of the school is intended to guide parents and students in the decision regarding participation in Advanced English Language Arts 7-8. However, if a student does not meet the criteria and is not recommended for Advanced English Language Arts 7-8, the parent may elect to enroll the student in these classes by contacting the school counselor and completing the **Request to Enroll in Advanced Middle School Courses** form. This form will remain on file at the student's middle school.

### **Questions?**

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact the Department of Secondary Curriculum at 972-8525.