

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Advanced English Language Arts

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Welcome to AELA! We are excited to have you & are looking forward to a great year! As a student in the advanced class, you are expected to be an active, self-driven learner. Our goal this year is to move all students forward in their skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening. We will operate under a workshop model, spending time as a large group with course content, but more time working independently to advance skills. Emphasis is placed on independent thought/research and decision-making. Students are encouraged to push their abilities through exploration, analysis and collaboration in all areas of the class curriculum. The class is run under a workshop model where students will be expected to use class time to explore and expand their ELA strengths.

### Supplies:

Students need their planner, ELA binder, paper, writing utensil, independent reading book, and class text (when necessary) for class each day. Students are expected to be on time, prepared for and actively participating in class each day, while respecting all others in the room.

### Homework:

Students can expect homework every night, including periodic vocabulary study, nightly independent reading, as well as assignments from the current unit of study or long term project (research, writing &/or reading assignments, etc). We strive to make sure that students are given a sufficient amount of time to finish projects without having excessive amounts of homework, yet the course of study does move at rigorous pace.

### Late Work:

All assignments are expected to be complete, quality work and turned in on time. Many due dates will be self selected or turned in over a "window" of time, and most assignments will be accepted late. Students who show a pattern of missing work will be referred to the office for behavior intervention.

### Grading:

Student grades will be determined based on work in areas of the district/state standards: Informational Reading, Reading literature, Vocabulary/Language skills, Writing & Speaking as well as the District Common Summative Assessment and Independent reading. Families should be checking grades on AHConnect regularly, as the grade book is live and "real time" updated. In addition, students will receive mid-trimester and trimester building grade reports. Please see the AMSA calendar for report card dates. **Rubric scores are 4=95-100%, 3=85%, 2=75%, 1=55%**

Feel free to contact us at the above numbers/emails any time.

We look forward to a great year

Thank you,



## Advanced ELA

Welcome to Advanced ELA! Students have been placed in Advanced ELA (English/Language Arts) because of MAP scores, MCA scores, previous success in an advanced course, and /or teacher recommendations. Advanced ELA and Regular ELA courses will address similar academic standards, but will be tailored to the students' instructional levels.

All Minnesota state and district reading and writing standards will be covered in this class, however, students will engage more independently and with more rigor when appropriate. The coursework should be more emotionally and personally challenging, provocative, and complex to meet the unique needs of the advanced students.

Advanced ELA curriculum content (stories, projects, writing assignments etc.) may be very similar to those in the regular course, but students may have more rigorous expectations in the following areas:

- Text analysis and comprehension
- Mature, respectful discussions of class relevant topics/texts
- Assessments
- Pace and depth of instruction
- Vocabulary development
- Academic writing expectations
- Grammar/sentence structure expectations
- Analysis of THEMES and PATTERNS in literature
- Understanding of the characteristics of specific genre of fiction and non-fiction
- Continued use of reading strategies to understand more difficult text
- Independent, "choice" writing/reading projects

In short, we will try to structure the advanced course to challenge the student at his/her individual instructional level. The goal is to increase the RIGOR of the course expectations without increasing the amount of projects and assignments compared to the regular course. Don't be surprised if your AELA student is doing something different than his or her sibling(s) or the next-door neighbor. Please contact Mr. Silmsner or Mrs. Phillips if you have any questions about the course curriculum at any time throughout the school year. We look forward to teaching your student!

\*\*\*\*See Reverse Side for Syllabus information\*\*\*\*