



# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

## Middle School Program

### Course Overview

The middle school English Language Arts program challenges students to read, write, and think analytically about a range of books, articles, and other texts. Students practice comprehension strategies and text analysis by engaging in close, careful reading of literary and informational material. Students also engage in whole class reads, book clubs and independent reading in which they apply critical reading strategies to comprehend complex text, develop content knowledge, and pursue topics and ideas of interest. Throughout the year, students write routinely by examining the author's craft and engaging in all stages of the writing process to develop written work patterned after real-world narrative, informative/ explanatory, and argumentative writing. Oral presentations and classroom debates require students to prepare and present logical, well- developed arguments while practicing grade level speaking and listening skills.

All course performance tasks challenge students to demonstrate analytical thinking in reading and writing as well as a strong command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage. In addition, Honors English Language Arts courses are offered to advanced students in sixth, seventh and eighth grades.

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