

**Heather Tow-Yick, Superintendent**

February 1, 2023

Dear Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents:

The purpose of this letter is to explain the Issaquah School District's advanced option for English Language Arts. Your student will automatically be enrolled in the appropriate Math and Science classes, based on previous years' self-select decisions.

Issaquah School District offers an advanced option for 8<sup>th</sup> graders in English Language Arts. Families interested in Advanced Language Arts should consider the following guidance.

**Students choosing advanced/accelerated courses should:**

- Reflect student's interest and aspirations in the course of study.
- Have excellent study habits and organizational skills.
- Have strong communication and reading skills for engaging with rigorous material.
- Demonstrate motivation, maturity, perseverance and stamina for learning challenging material.
- Be active participants in all aspects of the classroom, including discussions, group or individual projects.
- Consider the increased time commitment to studies outside of the school day. Please consider all responsibilities, including sports, music and club affiliations.
- Consider the possibility that grades could be lower than if students took the typical course sequence(s).

This is an important decision for students and families. In Language Arts, this decision is made yearly. Below is additional information to consider as you make your course selection.

Advanced Language Arts Readiness Criteria
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Report Card Grade in Language Arts: B+ or higher 2022 SBA ELA score: Level 4
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The readiness criteria are designed to serve as a guide. Students do not have to meet the readiness criteria to select advanced ELA.

Sincerely,

Rich Mellish  
Executive Director  
Teaching and Learning Services

**Board of Directors**

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