

8th Grade Advanced ELA Requirements

Sanger Middle School

The English Department at Sanger Middle School seeks to challenge and expand horizons in English Language Arts as well as prepare for Pre-AP and AP courses in high school. Advanced English courses are designed as challenging in vocabulary, pace and materials. Advanced English courses promote a higher level of grammatical skills and critical analysis of literature. Therefore, students will attend a program more literary based than grammatical, although those mechanical skills will be taught through written compositions.

Overview of Class:

1. **The class is designed as an in-depth study of literature with a focus on critical thinking skills. Students learn to deepen their thought processes and respond to literary analysis.**
2. **The class focuses on the writing process through critical thinking, and students respond to more open-ended questions in essays.**
3. **Summer reading is REQUIRED.** Prior knowledge of literature assists the student in evaluating and analyzing literary themes, authors' motives, and how society and literature have an impact on one another.
4. **Students will complete higher-level assignments with deeper insight into literature throughout the course, thus building critical thinking skills as well as creating excellent written and oral communication.** The students are expected to be proficient in writing and basic grammatical skills to be successful.

Course Enrollment:

It is encouraged for enrollment into the Advanced English class that your student has established the following criteria:

- established a 90% or better grade average for the entire prior year,
- received a teacher recommendation from a current teacher for enrollment into the course, and
- completed required summer reading expectations.

Summer Reading Requirement: Your child can be encouraged to read by providing a quiet place and scheduled times for reading throughout the summer. *We recommend 30 minutes per day at minimum.*

8th grade Advanced English Summer Reading List

***The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, by John Boyne**

*At the beginning of the year, students will be **tested** over the summer reading (within the first 3 weeks of school). The test does NOT focus on the movie, and that is not a replacement for reading.*

Please check the SMS Library, the Sanger City Library, or at local bookstores such as Barnes and Nobles Bookstore for a copy of the book. I encourage having your own copy to read and annotate.

*It is suggested that your student keep a reading log of the books read this summer, defining the summary of each chapter (**I offer extra credit for a reading log**). This will assist in recalling information from the novel at a later time. If you need an example for this, please contact me.*

Please call the middle school at 940-458-7916 if you have questions and concerns about the Advanced English courses.