



What to expect in an 8th grade ACE ELA class?

- Students are able to independently read for at least 30 minutes a day; this reading might be from assigned reading or independent novels but will include both fiction and nonfiction texts.
- Students are able to independently draft an essay in 45-60 minutes.
- Students possess an ability to work independently as is age appropriate.
- Students are willing to explore multiple genres in reading and writing.
- Students are able to understand and adhere to deadlines.
- Students will take risks in pursuit of deeper learning in reading and writing.
- Students will be encouraged and supported to use conceptual connections in their learning.
- Students are able to move faster through learning and push to new/above grade level standards when appropriate.
- Students are passionate and motivated by reading, writing, speaking and listening.
- Students are able to deal with frustration or academic challenges in an age appropriate manner.
- 8th grade ELA classes are a single class period so often there is more homework.

So what does this actually mean?

An 8th grade ACE ELA student might read an additional 2-3 whole class novels. These novels will most likely be used to supplement literary analysis. During the dystopian reading unit, 8th grade ACE ELA students will be asked to read a series of books and discuss the role of dystopia in adolescent literature. These students will also be exposed to a variety of classic literature in whole novel, short story and/or poetry format.

Students might end the year with a narrative nonfiction unit that highlights the need for diverse voices and an understanding of how those voices affect perspective in reading.

These are all possible scenarios. Teachers maintain creative freedom in regards to units and book choices but the emphasis is on conceptual and sophisticated thinking. The priority for the ACE ELA class is to challenge students in their reading, writing and thinking as appropriate. This is accelerated and enriched content. This class will also serve as preparation for students interested in signing up for Honors ELA as a freshman at Gahanna Lincoln. If you have specific questions about content, please contact Joan Miller, millerj@gjps.org, the ELA gifted specialist.