

Ron Thiele, Superintendent

February 16, 2018

Dear Incoming 8th Grade Parents:

The purpose of this letter is to explain the Issaquah School District's advanced options 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 8th graders in English Language Arts. Families interested in Advanced Language Arts should consider the following guidance.

Students who have demonstrated success in advanced courses have the following:

- excellent study habits and organizational skills.
- consistently high scores in reading on report cards and standardized tests.
- strong communication and reading skills for engaging with rigorous material.
- motivation, emotional readiness/maturity, perseverance and stamina for learning challenging material.
- desire to be an active participant in all aspects of the classroom, including discussions, group or individual projects, and labs.
- readiness to devote more time to studies outside of the school day. *Please consider your child's time commitments to all extra-curricular activities e.g., sports, music and club affiliations.*
- willingness to accept the possibility that grades could be lower than if student took the typical course sequence(s).
- strong work habits and initiative, and high desire to engage in learning.

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
6 th Grade SBA in ELA score: 2688 or higher
Report Card Grade in Language Arts: B+ or higher

Sincerely,



Emilie Hard

Assistant Superintendent

Teaching and Learning Services

Board of Directors

Lisa Callan • Harlan Gallinger • Marnie Maraldo • Anne Moore • Suzanne Weaver