

Highly Capable English Language Arts

8th Grade

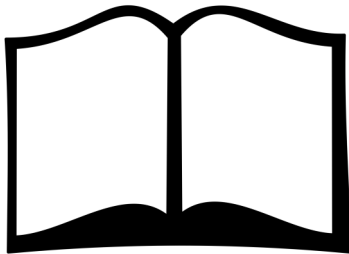


Curriculum

The Highly Capable English Language Arts program uses SpringBoard curriculum produced by the College Board. SpringBoard is a rigorous curriculum that provides students the ability to develop their close reading, writing, listening, speaking, and research skills. Vocabulary and grammar instruction is integrated throughout the units. There are four units for 8th grade: The Challenge of Heroism, The Challenge of Utopia, The Challenge to Make a Difference, and The Challenge of Comedy.

Standards

The course is aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for 8th Grade English Language Arts. The standards focus on critical reading, evidence-based writing, and academic conversation. The SpringBoard curriculum supports the teaching and learning of these standards.



Core Texts

Students will read a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts, including the novel *The Giver* by Lois Lowry and selections by Madeline L'Engle, Homer, Ray Bradbury, Walt Whitman, Kurt Vonnegut, Anne Frank, John Boyne, Elie Wiesel, Carl Sandburg, Saki, and Shakespeare. Students also have the opportunity for independent reading within the genres of study.



Instructional Modes

Students will engage in collaborative strategies such as literature circles, discussion groups, Socratic Seminars, and debate. They will also advance their reading skills through teacher modeling, graphic organizers, and think-alouds. Writing strategies include outlining, note taking, marking up drafts, participating in writing groups, and self-editing.