

Middle School Language Arts placement guidelines

“At a Glance”

- Students are placed in classes based on their readiness to learn and proficiency in language arts, NOT behavior in class or homework completion rate.
- Courses are coded in semesters to allow for student advancement. Students are not held in tiers for the whole year, if they have made the appropriate gains they can move to the next tier.
- Multiple data points are considered for placement and exit criteria.
- Courses are NOT intended to be repeated.

Hanshew Middle School believes each student is a valued individual with unique physical, social, emotional and intellectual needs. The staff at Hanshew advocates high expectations and is dedicated to providing a supportive and challenging learning environment for all students.

Opportunities for success will be provided through instruction and experience with higher level thinking skills, problem solving, wellness, self control and responsible behavior. The Language Arts Department's goal is to prepare lifelong learners who will become literate, self disciplined, independent and confident individuals who take pride in themselves, communicate effectively and who make positive contributions to society.

Language Arts Programs at Hanshew Middle School



Tier 1 Instruction

SpringBoard English Language Arts:

A literature-based curriculum of four thematically organized units. Areas of instruction focus (reading, writing, grammar, vocabulary, and media literacy) build students' literacy skills. Students will engage in close observation and analysis, higher-order questioning, evidence-based writing, and academic conversations. Students will be immersed in analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of a multitude of sources - providing opportunities to cultivate wondering and promote productive lingering. In conjunction with college and career readiness, students will compare, critique, debate, and build upon others' ideas and arguments to advance their learning. This course, or its equivalent, is required of all Middle School students in the Anchorage School District.

Note: The same SpringBoard curriculum materials are used for the Grade Level ELA courses and the Advanced ELA courses. Performance expectations are more demanding for the Advanced Group.

Tier 2 Instruction

SpringBoard ELA Intensified:

This course's purpose is to help students to attain the on grade level competencies needed for success in the Tier 1 classroom.

SpringBoard partners with Zinc Reading Labs and Quill to provide teachers tools to customize reading, vocabulary, writing and grammar lessons which address the individual needs of each student.

Students in this class use the same SpringBoard textbook that the Tier 1 students use. Doing many of the same activities and using the same learning strategies prepares students for success when they are ready to move to a Tier 1 classroom.

Tier 3 Instruction

Discover Inside:

This course contains National Geographic content paired with authentic multicultural literature. It is a curriculum that inspires care about our planet through research focused activities that are appealing and motivating for middle school students.

This curriculum helps students fill the gaps in their foundational knowledge of the English language, so they will be successful with the Core Curriculum when they are ready for a Tier 2 classroom.