

January 3, 2023

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

It is time to begin the application and recommendation process for **Advanced English Language Arts** for the *Advanced 7th grade ELA* course, *Advanced 8th grade ELA* course & *Honors English I* (9th grade) course for the 2023-2024 academic year. The **Advanced English Language Arts** path is a more rigorous, independent, and fast-paced learning experience than the regular English curriculum offers.

Students who are finding success in their ELA class this year, and who express a passion for reading and writing are encouraged to apply for consideration. Successful students at the *Advanced* and *Honors* levels must demonstrate an above-average writing and reading skill sets paired with academic maturity, leadership in the class, being engaged in their learning matched with continuous curiosity, and of course, a love of reading.

To be eligible for consideration for the *Advanced* or *Honors I* English Language Arts course, students must complete the following steps in the application process:

1. Obtain a Parent/Guardian signature at the bottom of this form
2. Submit Student Reflection: *Am I ready for Advanced ELA/Honors I?* Parts A and B
3. Submit Student Selected Writing: *My Best Writing Piece*

ITEMS 1,2 & 3 ARE DUE IN ELA CLASS on FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2023

Completing each of the items above is your child's "application" to be considered for *Advanced ELA* or *Honors I* placement. Once the above steps are completed, your child's teacher will be able to complete a **formal** evaluation.

Please note that in addition to the above items, teachers will also factor in an End of Unit Post Assessment as a data point.

Thank you,
Parsippany Troy-Hills Middle School ELA Teachers

- I support my child's application for *Advanced ELA* or *Honors I* course in the 2023-2024 school year.
- I understand that this means my child will be considered, **but not automatically placed** in the *Advanced ELA* or *Honors I* courses.

STUDENT NAME: _____ PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____

DEADLINE: Friday January 13, 2023

Name: _____

Step 1: Student Reflection: *Am I ready for Advanced ELA/Honors English 1?*

Part A: Please review the criteria below that defines an advanced student. Reflect honestly on how often you display the characteristics listed below.

YOUR TASK: Consider each characteristic and place an X in the box that best describes you.

Characteristics of an Advanced ELA student	CONSISTENTLY	SOMETIMES	RARELY
<p><u>Ability to work independently:</u> I adhere to assignment criteria, apply all lessons, have well-developed responses, never do the bare minimum.</p>			
<p><u>Ability to work independently:</u> I do not need my teacher to re-explain/redirect me or ask questions that have already been answered.</p>			
<p><u>Ability to work independently and remain focused:</u> I take ownership of my learning, ask questions, clarify, and advocate for my own understanding.</p>			
<p><u>Assignments consistently completed:</u> I hand all work in on time and meet or exceed the expectations; all directions are followed, careless mistakes are rare.</p>			
<p><u>Composition skills:</u> I earn a B or higher on most, if not all writing assignments. I demonstrate strong command of written language.</p>			
<p><u>Ability to communicate orally:</u> I participate frequently to answer and ask questions to further enhance the subject and/or discussion. I speak without prompting but also know not to dominate a conversation. **Example: Book Club Discussions**</p>			
<p><u>Use/need reassessment:</u> Academic success is achieved without use of redos, revisions or additional time.</p>			
<p><u>Academic maturity:</u> I realize an advanced course is a privilege, not a right, that is earned daily. I regularly offer to assist peers.</p>			
<p>I enjoy reading and maintain an active reading life.</p>			
<p>I enjoy writing and regularly reflect on my published pieces in order to continue strengthening my work as a writer.</p>			

Name: _____

Step 1: Student Reflection: *Am I ready for Advanced ELA/Honors English 1?*

Part B: Synthesizing your Reflection Data

YOUR TASK: Using the data from the reflection chart, compose a typed paragraph explaining your motivation for applying for *Advanced ELA* or *Honors I* placement. Include an MLA heading (see below), appropriate formatting, and then print it out and attach it to this form.

****Only a fresh, clean, MLA formatted draft of your paragraph will be accepted.****

Step 2: Student Selected Writing: *My Best Writing Piece*

Choose a piece of writing from this school year that you are most proud of; it can be from any class you are enrolled in beginning September 2022 to now.

YOUR TASK: Type a fresh, clean copy of your chosen piece, complete with an MLA heading (see below) and appropriate formatting, then print it out and attach it to this form.

****Only a fresh, clean, MLA formatted draft of your chosen writing piece will be accepted.****

MLA Heading Example

Student Name
Teacher Name
Advanced ELA Application --Synthesis of Reflection Data and Motivation
13 January 2023

Title of Writing Piece