

Characteristics for Success

Students in Enriched Language Arts 7 cover most of the same topics as the traditional classes, though often on an accelerated timeline. The enriched classes will work with the material in a more rigorous, in-depth, and abstract manner. Tests on the topic will reflect this rigor, and more will be expected of projects and other assignments. There are also one or two additional units of study covered in the enriched sections, which are not part of the traditional syllabus. Overall a higher level of maturity and the ability to function independently is expected at the enriched level.

Another way to think of an enriched class is as a "challenge" class. The course is designed for those students whose learning needs and desires require that they be stretched to a higher level of performance. It does not mean that enriched students are better than other students; their learning needs are more accelerated.

Enriched students should demonstrate the following characteristics:

- 1. A passion for language arts.** This should be the first consideration when deciding on enriched language arts. If a student does not enjoy extensive reading and writing, this course is not a good fit.
- 2. Strong reading and writing skills.** Enriched students must be proficient, skilled readers who can achieve a high level of comprehension independently. Students must also enjoy writing and be able to articulate their thoughts in many different writing modes.
- 3. An ability to think beyond concrete levels and to process information quickly** are also characteristics of students for whom the enriched classes are designed. Students should be able to make leaps of abstract thought to connect and further ideas.
- 4. A willingness to participate positively in both large and small group discussions and activities.** The enriched student should not be waiting around for others to give the answer or do the work for him/her. Students are expected to participate in class on a daily basis and to offer thoughtful, serious opinions.
- 5. A strong work ethic.** An enriched language arts student will have a greater workload and will be asked to go more in depth into the work. In addition, an enriched student may be asked to do more work outside of the classroom, including a summer assignment.

Students who match these characteristics will feel successful in this class.