

February 2024

Dear RCS Community:

During your student's 8th-grade year, Rochester Community Schools offers options for language arts instruction. One option is that families may select the Advanced Language Arts (ALA) class for the 2024-2025 school year. Families who do not submit the Google form will be enrolled in the Language Arts 8 (LA 8) course. The curriculum department asks that families consider several factors in determining the appropriate course for their students. Schedule changes are not possible once schedules have been set. Please consider the factors listed below:

- This course aims to extend learning in reading, writing, listening, speaking, and thinking.
- Consider your student's latest M-STEP or standardized test scores. The higher the M-STEP and/or i-Ready reading scores, the more ready a student will be for advanced coursework. Please note that if your child's test scores indicate they may need remediation to meet grade-level standards, those needs will not be explicitly addressed in this course. Materials in the course will not be modified.
- Consider your student's 7th-grade report cards. Students ready for advancement should have earned "A" grades in language arts.
- Consider your student's interest and passion for reading and writing. Currently, writing is not measured in a standardized assessment, so consider your student's writing ability and interest in writing. Students in an advanced language arts course should be reading and writing outside of school assignments.
- Students may receive grades lower than they have typically earned. Students will not be allowed to switch courses based on their grades.

Please contact your school's learning consultant if you have questions about your student's test scores or data. If you have any questions about the accelerated or advanced coursework, please contact Shavonne Jacobson, middle school language arts curriculum consultant, at sjacobson@rochester.k12.mi.us.

All course requests must be received by March 8, 2024, and will only be accepted via Google form. The Google form will no longer accept responses after this date.

[Please click here for a Google form to ENROLL in ADVANCED 8th-grade language arts.](#)

Thank you for your partnership in your child's education.

Sincerely,

RCS Curriculum Department