

Course Description

ACADEMIC RESOURCE (AR)

Purpose:

The purpose of AR is to provide qualifying, academically talented middle school students an innovative and challenging curriculum that combines teacher-led instruction with independent study and small group work.

Placement:

Students are placed in Academic Resource by committee approval when they meet these requirements (space permitting):

- 95th percentile (+2/-2) for the Spring/Fall/Winter reading NWEA assessments.
- Exceeding expectations in English Language Arts (ELA), along with a review of their 5th-grade report card across all subjects to ensure the program's additional academic challenge is appropriate.
- All students, including students in ALPS, will need to meet this criteria for placement.

Parents/Guardians of eligible students will receive a letter from the NPS Office of Instruction informing them of the AR placement. Acceptance of the AR placement is optional; those who enroll in AR may remain in the program throughout middle school. AR takes the place of a student's Seminar course.

Content:

AR is a rigorous, humanities-based seminar course that includes writing, reading, speaking, and project-based work. At each grade level, students will explore various age-appropriate topics that promote inquiry and a deeper understanding of global themes. Course content and pacing is ideal for students who:

- have strong, formal writing skills, including content organization and language usage resulting in clear, descriptive, yet concise output.
- are independent learners who are internally motivated and do not mind work time outside of class. Students should be able to manage multi-faceted projects with milestones and deadlines.
- are critical thinkers.

Note: Academic Resource is NOT the advanced version of English Language Arts or in place of ELA.