

Welcome to Mrs. Putro's Advanced Language Arts Class!



Parents' Frequently Asked Questions

How is this class different from the regular Language Arts class?

Lessons and assignments are designed with the needs of gifted students and their learning styles in mind. Concepts are taught from whole to part, so the sense-making mind of the gifted child can see how smaller, discrete skills fit into larger systems of useful ideas.

Challenging reading materials are chosen to increase the likelihood that your child will have to work to understand - in other words, to make sure that your child spends as much time as possible learning. Review of simpler skills will be minimal, while the focus of instruction will always be moving toward deeper understanding of literature and writing.

Most importantly, your child will be supported through the process of setting, monitoring, and evaluating ambitious academic goals related to reading and writing to ensure that he/she internalizes what we learn in group work.

How will I know if my child can handle the demand of the work?

Your child has been identified as gifted by objective testing measures which have resulted in this course schedule. While this is not the only or even the best way to assess what your child is capable of, this course is designed to meet the needs of a range of gifted learners, so I will do my best to meet your child where he or she is instructionally.

The most challenging aspect of the class is the personal responsibility your child will need to develop to practice reading and writing independently during class time and at home. However, I take great care to support your child as he/she adjusts to these expectations.

What if my child wasn't in a gifted class last year? How will he/she catch up?

Because students are identified and move into the district at all ages, it is not uncommon to have students in my class who have not been in such a class before. This is not a problem. If significant gaps seem to exist in your child's content knowledge which require outside support, I promise I will contact you directly in order to help develop a plan for closing any such gap.

What should my child do if he/she struggles in this class?

You might want to celebrate. Depending on the cause of the struggle, it is important to keep in mind that learning is a process which requires a student to reach beyond what he/she can already do or understand. This is something which can be stressful, especially for my new students who are used to handling schoolwork with ease. Please keep in mind that I am working hard to build your child's stamina and ambition for navigating challenging academic work. Of course, this does not mean I want your child to fail or become overly discouraged. If you see signs of such distress, please don't hesitate to bring these to my attention. I do encourage students to communicate this with me, but they do sometimes worry about expressing lack of confidence or ability.

What is the best way to support my child's achievement in this class?

1. Stay informed about what is happening in class by signing up for the daily Remind messages. **Remind will be the primary communication for homework assignments.** Assignments are projected and posted to Google Classroom each day in class. **Messages will be sent via Remind at the end of each school day.**
2. Familiarize yourself with my grading policy which will provide your child with opportunities to improve his/her grades on work that was especially challenging. Not all graded work is eligible for correction, but a significant portion of independent work is.. More information can be found on my website.
3. Encourage your child *through* stressful moments if they occur. Remind your child that struggle is part of learning, and perfection isn't possible during such a messy process. **We focus on effort and growth in my classroom, so reinforcing that over perfect grades is incredibly helpful.**
4. Reach out to sources of information about how to support your gifted child at home. The National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) and Supporting the Emotional Needs of the Gifted (SENG) are excellent places to begin.
 - a. <http://www.nagc.org/resources-publications/resources-parents>
 - b. <http://sengifted.org/senglibrary>
5. Stay in touch! Email and Remind messages are the best ways to communicate with me. Any message sent before 6 pm on a school night will *likely* receive a response that evening. Any message received after that may need to wait until the next school day, but I will get back to you. I am also willing to set up an appointment to meet in person for more serious concerns or issues.

Remind App Codes for the 2022-2023 School Year	
5th Grade	@5elaput
6th Grade	@6elaput
7th Grade	@7elaput
8th Grade	@8elaput

Let's have a great year!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Erica Putro
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