

February 26, 2018

Dear Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents:

The purpose of this letter is to explain the Issaquah School District's advanced and accelerated options in English Language Arts, Math, and Science for students in middle school whose personal goals, interests, and abilities would benefit from these options. Families interested in Advanced Language Arts, or skipping a year of science or math content should consider the following guidance.

**Students who have demonstrated success in advanced courses have the following:**

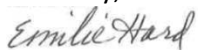
- excellent organizational skills.
- consistently high scores in math and reading on report cards and standardized tests.
- strong communication and reading skills for engaging with rigorous material.
- motivation, emotional readiness/maturity, perseverance and stamina for learning challenging material. *Note: Advanced students will be in math and science classes with older students.*
- desire to be an active participant in all aspects of the classroom, including discussions, group or individual projects, and labs.
- readiness to devote more time to studies outside of the school day. *Please consider your child's time commitments to all extra-curricular activities e.g., sports, music and club affiliations.*
- willingness to accept the possibility that grades could be lower than if student took the typical course sequence(s).
- strong work habits and initiative, and high desire to engage in learning.

This is an important decision for students and families. In Language Arts, this decision will be made yearly. However, for math and science, once a student starts a path above grade level it is not possible to change course without repeating content at some point in time. Please consider that by skipping courses in math and science, your student may have some gaps in content knowledge that will not be repeated in these classes.

Below is additional information to consider as you make your course selections.

| <b>Advanced Language Arts Readiness Criteria</b>                  | <b>CC7/8 Math Readiness Criteria (skipping content)</b> | <b>Science Pathway 2 Readiness Criteria</b>       |
|---|---|---|
| 4 <sup>th</sup> grade SBA in ELA score: 2633 or higher            | Common Core 6 Mastery Assessment : 80% or higher        | 4 <sup>th</sup> grade SBA in ELA: 2633 or higher  |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> grade Report Card Grade in Reading and Writing: 4 | 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade SBA in Math: 2643 or higher       | 4 <sup>th</sup> grade SBA in Math: 2643 or higher |

Sincerely,



Emilie Hard  
Assistant Superintendent  
Teaching and Learning Services

**Board of Directors**

Lisa Callan • Harlan Gallinger • Marnie Maraldo • Anne Moore • Suzanne Weaver