

Strath Haven Middle/High School
Advanced Course Placement Criteria 7th – 9th Grade
English/Language Arts
2015-2016

In the Wallingford-Swarthmore School District, our goal is to provide an appropriate learning environment for each student. Placement is a careful consideration for all students with the intent of maintaining the integrity and rigor of the advanced level courses and providing appropriate challenge for students. In response to the standards-based initiative in Pennsylvania, the English/Language Arts department, along with building and district administration, has established criteria for placement into the advanced level English/Language Arts course in seventh through ninth grade. The criteria reflect the rigor of the Pennsylvania Common Core State Standards with respect to the critical reading and writing skills necessary for success in these challenging courses.

Teachers will submit the placement in late January and *continue to monitor* students for potential shifts in essential reading and writing skills. In cases where it is deemed appropriate, changes may be made to the initial placement. The following data sources will be used for placement into the advanced level courses indicated for each grade. A listing of specific skill expectations in reading and writing can be found on the middle school Language Arts webpage as well as the Curriculum webpage.

6th grade to 7th grade Enriched:

- Benchmark Assessment Data
- Writing portfolio of common assessments (see skill expectation document)
- Student choice in his/her independent reading and reading logs (see skill expectation document)
- Minimum of **90%** score on all Black Diamond level writing assignments
- Two consecutive marking periods with a minimum **A-** grade average

7th grade to 8th grade Enriched:

- Benchmark Assessment Data
- Writing portfolio of common assessments (see skill expectation document)
- Student choice in his/her independent reading and reading logs (see skill expectation document)
- Students must take ALL Black Diamond level writing assignments and earn a minimum of **90%** on the assignments for two consecutive marking periods
- Two consecutive marking periods with a minimum **A-** grade average

7th grade Enriched to 8th grade Enriched:

- Benchmark Assessment Data
- Writing portfolio of common assessments (see skill expectation document)
- Student choice in his/her independent reading and reading logs (see skill expectation document)
- Minimum of **88%** score on all writing assignments
- Two consecutive marking periods with a minimum **B+** grade average

8th grade to 9th grade Honors:

- Writing portfolio of common assessments (see skill expectation document)
- Student choice in his/her independent reading and reading logs (see skill expectation document)
- Students must take ALL Black Diamond level writing assignments and earn a minimum of **90%** on the assignments for two consecutive marking periods
- Two consecutive marking periods with a minimum **A-** grade average
- Successful score on the Writing Placement test given at the end of the first semester. (This score alone does not preclude a student from being placed into the Honors level course.)

8th grade Enriched to 9th grade Honors:

- Writing portfolio of common assessments (see skill expectation document)
- Student choice in his/her independent reading and reading logs (see skill expectation document)
- Minimum of **88%** score on all writing assignments
- Two consecutive marking periods with a minimum **B+** grade average
- Successful score on the Writing Placement test given at the end of the first semester. (This score alone does not preclude or include a student into the Honors level course.)