

## **SUSD Middle Level Honors English Language Arts Course Goals & Expectations**

SUSD offers Honors level coursework in English Language Arts at all middle schools, grades 6-8. The Honors ELA course is designed to provide a rigorous, enriched curriculum that sets higher expectations for student performance. This course engages students in the development of critical analysis and reasoning skills and establishes a strong foundation for AP coursework and college readiness.

### **What are the goals of the middle level ELA course?**

Students participating in middle level Honors English Language Arts will:

- develop as critical readers of nonfiction work, including expository, argumentative, analytical and personal texts from various authors and time periods.
- learn the elements that define effective argumentation, rhetoric, persuasion, and composition through critical analysis, comparison, and interpretation of complex texts.
- evaluate the interactions among a writer's purpose, audience, subject, and genre and how each of these contributes to effective writing.
- develop as independent, honest, and mature writers with guidance and support from peers and adults.
- produce clear and coherent writing of informational/explanatory, analytical, narrative, and argumentative compositions when employing each stage of the writing process.
- engage in collaborative discussions that clearly express one's own ideas and build upon others.
- explore honors in a safe classroom environment that encourages students to thrive on challenges and grow from setbacks.

### **What Makes an Honors Class Different from Other Classes:**

Honors ELA courses differ from General Ed ELA courses in reading, writing, speaking and listening, and critical thinking expectations. Specifically, students in Honors ELA can expect to:

- read and analyze District identified anchor texts that have greater complexity and/or higher lexile levels.
- Compose additional anchor performance-based written tasks related directly to texts in order to further develop as clear and coherent writers.
- participate in higher level thinking and collaborative, peer-led discussions and activities related to classroom concepts.
- develop a growth mindset that fosters self-advocacy and resiliency.
- demonstrate independent thinking and a strong work ethic.

\*\* Summer Expectations: to be most prepared for the rigor of the course, students participating in Honors ELA will be expected to read and demonstrate their understanding of two novels through project-based learning during the summer. For a list of Summer Reading novels and expectations – visit the following link available in SUSD's Digital Backpack: <http://bit.ly/2oGtpTz>