

Slauson Middle School



Overview

We teach English Language Arts (ELA) using the middle school guided reading program. Because we know that not every student is reading or writing at the same level, students are placed into small, fluid, reading groups and are coached through text in a way tailored to their individual needs. In addition, we read novels as a whole class, moving through the reading together with regular class discussions and activities to improve reading comprehension.

Literacy skills are taught using the *workshop* model. This model allows students to have considerable time in class to practice a skill as the teacher circulates the room providing ongoing feedback.

Our Vision

We will guide and support all students in reaching the learning targets at each grade level. We strive to establish a classroom culture that embraces the growth mindset and believes students should be active participants in their learning. We will encourage them to never give up and will teach them how to “reflect and redo” when they fall short of their learning goal(s).

Units of Study

Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Word Study	Word Study	Word Study
Independent Reading	Independent Reading	Independent Reading
Argumentative Writing	Argumentative Writing	Argumentative Writing
Research Writing	Research Writing	Research Writing
Narrative Writing	Narrative Writing	Narrative Writing
Folktale Genre Study	Mythology Genre Study	Realistic Fiction Genre Study
Literary Analysis: Fantasy	Literary Analysis: Poetry	Literary Analysis: Historical Fiction
Close Reading: Action & Adventure	Close Reading: Mystery	Close Reading: Science Fiction

ELA Department

Educators:

- Sarah Greene
- Erin Harshberger
- Ethan Konett
- Kirsten Neal
- Greta Niethammer
- Maria Murphy (chair)

Materials

- Binder (one section for ELA)
- Composition notebook
- Pencils

Curriculum Maps

Visit ATLAS Rubicon found on the AAPS website to view all grade-level curriculum maps.

Assessment Practices

We focus on figuring out what a student knows or doesn't know at any given time. We use feedback from our assessments to guide our teaching.

The Learning Process

Assessments are connected to the learning targets. Students are strongly encouraged to retake assessments if the learning targets still need to be met.