



**Smithtown Central School District**  
**Board of Education Meeting**  
**K-12 ELA Initiatives Update**  
**February 14, 2024**

**Raina Ingoglia, Director of English Language Arts**



# English Language Arts Initiatives

**Elementary School:**  
Early Literacy  
Enhancements  
and Resource Pilots



**Middle School:**  
English 8 Honors and  
Prep Academies

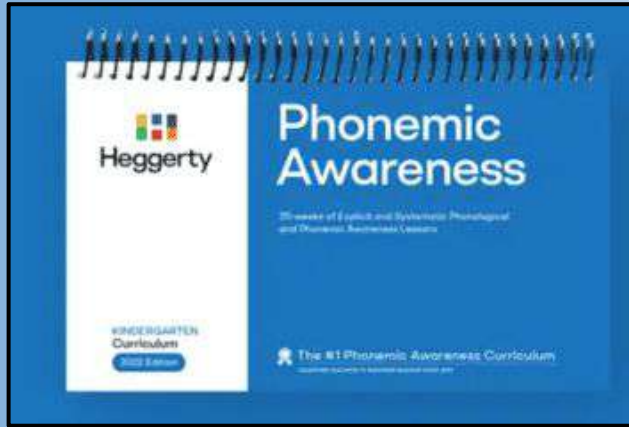


**High School:**  
The Writing  
Center Launch



# Elementary ELA: Grade K-1

# Heggerty Phonemic Awareness



# ***Foundations***



## Geodesics





# Elementary ELA: Heggerty in Action

Blending and Segmenting sounds-Chopping and Swiping



Isolating Medial Sounds-The Roller Coaster!



# Elementary ELA: *Geodes* in Action



**Phonics  
Practice**



**Building Background Knowledge**



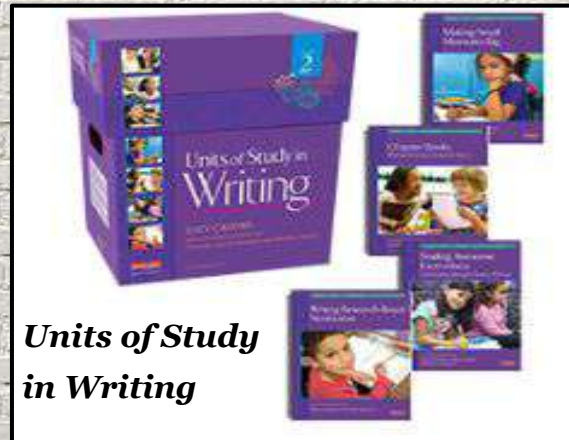
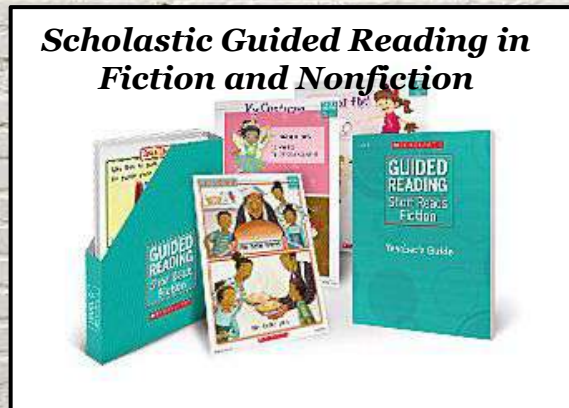
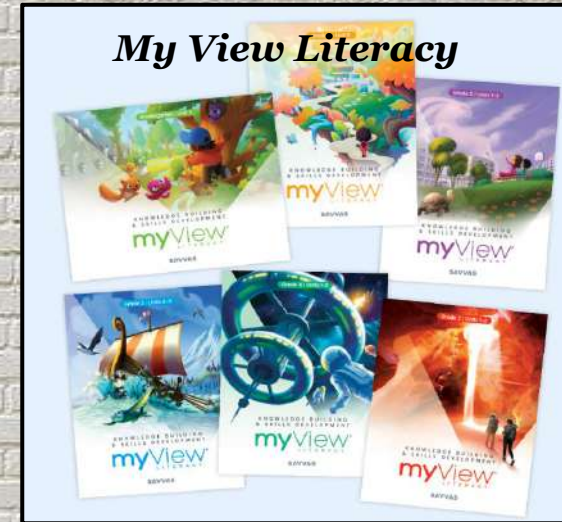
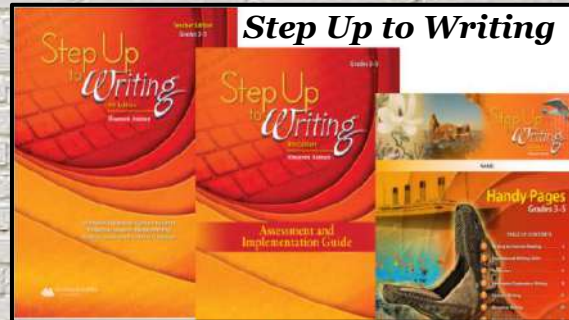
**Building Vocabulary**



# Elementary School - ELA Resource Pilots

## The process:

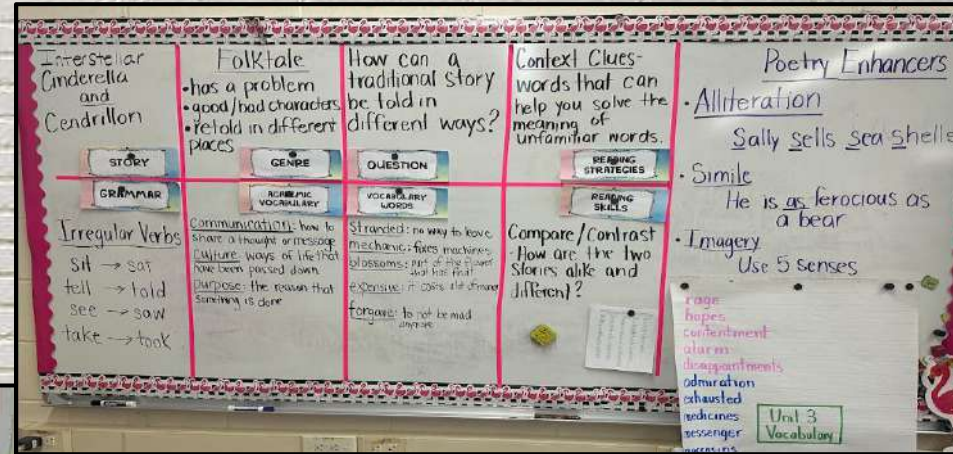
- ❑ Establishment of ELA Work Group
- ❑ Teacher meetings and surveys
- ❑ Resource Review
- ❑ Vendor Meetings
- ❑ Resource Selection
- ❑ Selection of pilot teachers
- ❑ Material ordering and distribution
- ❑ Professional Development





# ELA Pilot Evaluation Process

- ELA Pilot Feedback (based on The Reading League Curriculum Evaluation Tool) via Google Form
- Collection of student artifacts and outcomes
- Classroom visits





*Professional  
Development is what  
moves the mountain!*





# Professional Development

## Specific topics in Literacy:

- Word Recognition
- Language Comprehension
- Building Background Knowledge
- Small Group Instruction
- Engaging and motivating readers

## Resource Specific Training:

- *Geodes*
- *Heggerty*
- *Foundations*
- *Units of Study in Writing*
- *Step Up to Writing*
- *My View Literacy*





# Professional Development... coaching in the classroom



**Word building  
practice**

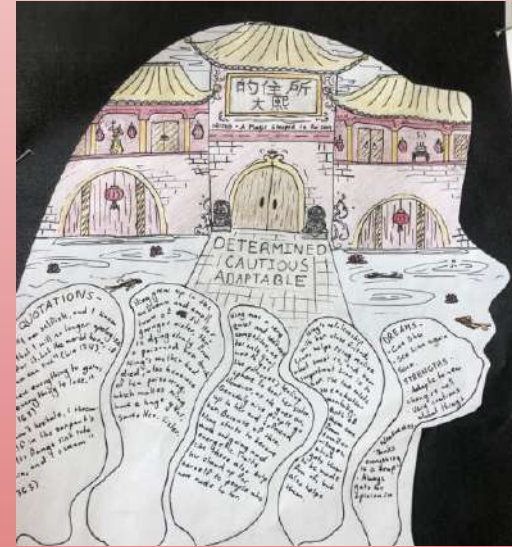
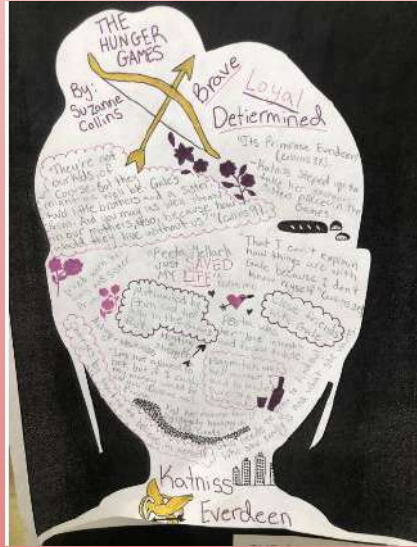
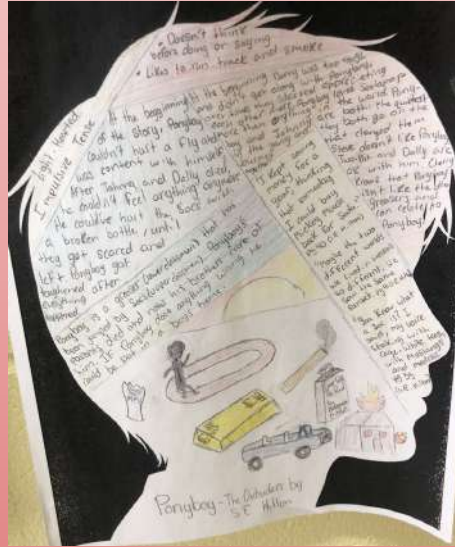
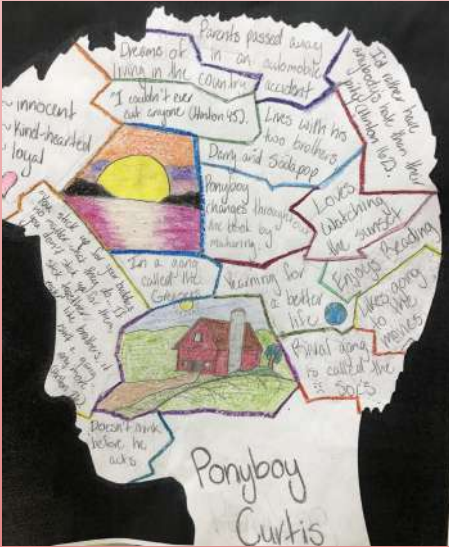


**Phonics in  
action with  
*Geodes***





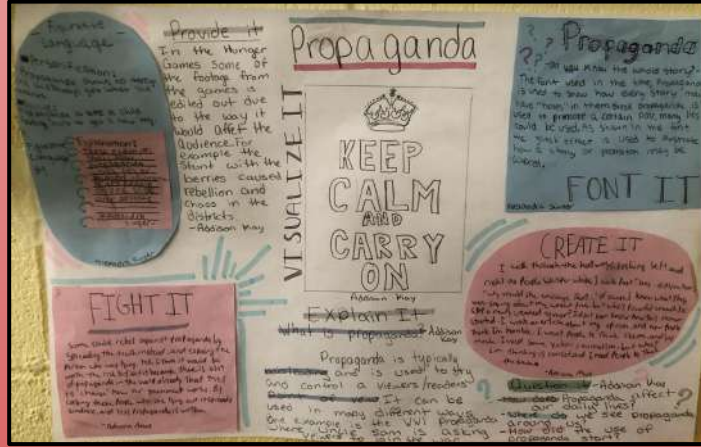
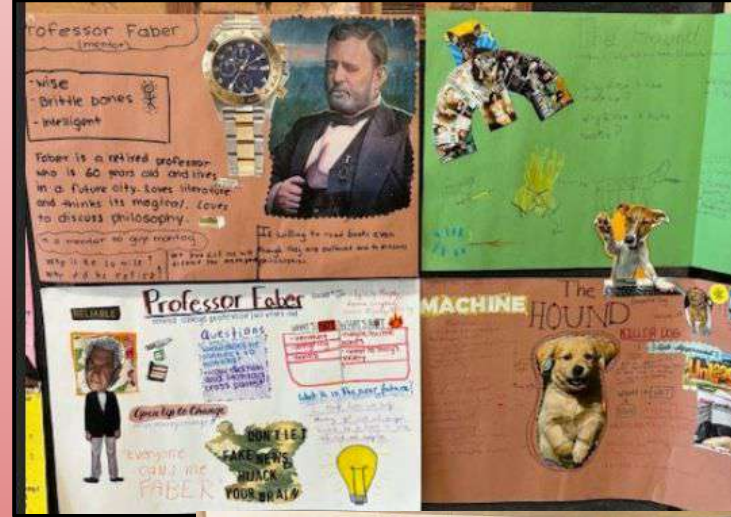
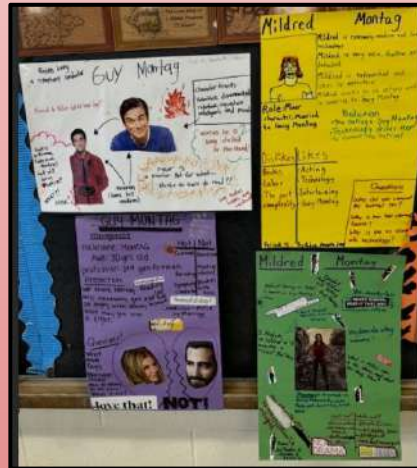
# Middle School: English 8 Honors



# Summer Reading Character Project

# Middle School: English 8 Honors

## Significant characters in *Fahrenheit 451*



## Dystopian Elements





# Middle School: English 8 Honors

**My Independent inquiry topic**

**Tenacity**

Definition: The quality of being very determined; persistence. The ability to keep going when things are difficult.

Connotation: The feeling of being determined to keep going even when things are difficult.

Example: I consider that tenacity comes from simple things such as determination and persistence.

Insert image here

**My Independent Inquiry**

How can I gather information about this topic?

Where have I seen this topic before?

What are my next steps?

I can look further into the definition, see how it is used in literature, and see how it is most commonly used.

In history books, countries that continue to fight in a war even though they have lost many battles.

In the Bible, when Jesus, Mary, and the apostles were at the trial, they were very difficult to reach. They continued to search for Jesus because it was for the greatest good.

Based on inquiry

TRAIT: **Honesty**

**Honesty**

Definition/Connotation: The quality of being honest. Positive, without deceit.

Quotations about this word: **Honesty is the fastest way to prevent a mistake from turning into a failure.** JAMES A. TUCKER. Anyone who doesn't take truth seriously in small matters cannot be trusted in large ones either.

Questions I have about this word: Who are some influential figures associated with honesty? What are the origins of this word? What are some ways to detect if people are being honest? Can I have this trait?

Images/Gifs that I associate with this word: **HONEST ABE** BY LITTLE KNOTTER THINGS. ABBOT ABRAHAM GREEN.

## Inquiry Work...

**My Research Word: Imagination**

What do you **WONDER** about your topic?

- Can we fully control our imagination?
- How powerful is your imagination?
- Is imagination given or birth?
- What would it be like without imagination?

What do you need to **RESEARCH/LEARN** about your topic?

- How imagination functions/origin
- Examples of imagination
- What imagination is not
- How it is gained
- Why it is important
- How it is learned
- How it changes over time/How does it develop
- How other people use imagination
- Imagination in history
- How imagination was discovered

What are 5-6 **KEYWORDS** you can use in your search for sources?

- Imagination
- Dreams
- Creativity
- Fantasy
- Limitations
- Define
- Exhibit
- What makes up

What do you already **KNOW** about this topic?

Imagination is powerful and allows you to create false realities and dreams without limitations.

Where can you **LOOK** for information on your topic?

Verified reliable resources on the topic: websites, webpages, and other online articles. You may be able to use other literature from the curriculum, biographies, auto-biographies, memoirs, online articles, and other newspaper and magazine articles.

What is the **BIG QUESTION** you need to answer about your topic?

- How do you define imagination?



**CREATING INQUIRY PATHS**

An inquiry path, or Foundation Question, can only be answered by inquiring further into the topic, which means asking more questions! Use this organizer to help you create paths of inquiry that will help you learn about your topic further.

**Research Topic: Ambition**

**Main Research Question I Need to Answer: How is ambition defined?**

**Inquiry Path #1 (Foundation Question 1): Why is ambition an important trait?**

**Inquiry Questions for Inquiry Path #1:**

- Where would ambition be most important?
- How might its importance affect its definition from other people?
- What is ambition?
- When might ambition become unimportant?

**Inquiry Path #2 (Foundation Question 2): What impact does ambition have on people?**

**Inquiry Questions for Inquiry Path #2:**

- How can ambition negatively affect others?
- How might ambition positively affect others?
- How might ambition impact your own mindset?

**Inquiry Path #3 (Foundation Question 3): How is ambition defined by other people?**

**Inquiry Questions for Inquiry Path #3:**

- What is the most common definition for ambition?
- What words are relevant to the definition of ambition?
- How might different people's connotations of ambition affect how they define it?
- Why might some people have differing opinions on whether or not ambition is a good thing?
- How might the popular definition be affected by how important others think ambition is?

**Inquiry Path #4 (Foundation Question 4): What would one have to do to become more ambitious?**

**Inquiry Questions for Inquiry Path #4:**

- Why is it important to become more ambitious?

**Inquiry Path #5 (Foundation Question 5): What kind of people embody ambition?**

**Inquiry Questions for Inquiry Path #5:**

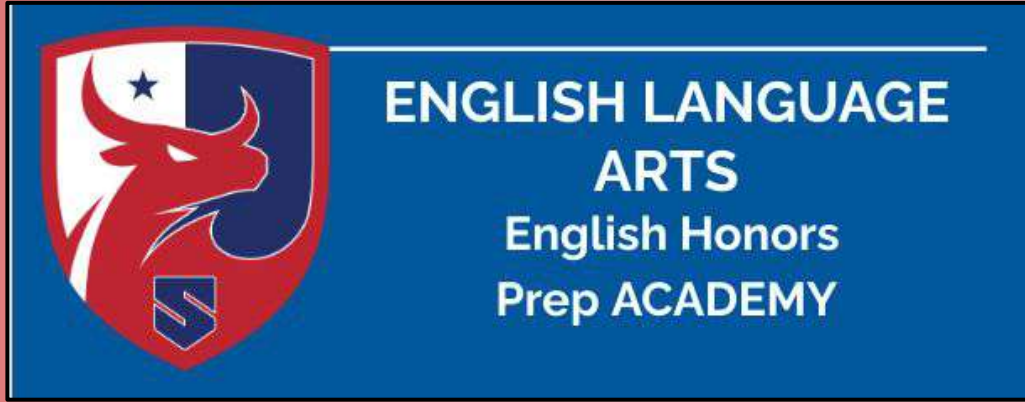
- How do these people act with ambition?
- What are some examples of celebrities who are ambitious?
- How does ambition affect their everyday lives?
- Why are these people so ambitious?
- How might ambition impact their public image?
- How does ambition affect their work?

**Inquiry Path #6 (Foundation Question 6): How should ambition be displayed/expressed?**

**Inquiry Questions for Inquiry Path #6:**

- How could one's expression of ambition change the way others see them?
- What are some ways that one may positively display ambition?
- What are some ways that one may negatively display ambition?

# Middle School: Honors Prep Academies



- Latin & Greek Root Words & Affixes
- Developing Persuasive Writing Skills
- Developing Independent Research Skills
- Annotation Skills for Higher Level Texts
- Understanding Challenging Vocabulary through Context
- Summary Analysis Poem (SAP)
- Advanced Editing Skills




# High School Writing Center Launch



HSE

NO WRONGS. JUST WRITE.  
Visit the HSE Writing Center in ROOM 164!  
(located by the Visitors Entrance)


**What is the Writing Center?**  
The WC is a space where all students in all classes and grades can come to get writing help from an English teacher.

**When is the Writing Center open?**  
Periods 4-8


FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SIGN UP, VISIT OUR WEBSITE! 




Synonym rolls.  
Just like Grammar  
used to make!



"BETTER WRITERS. STRONGER STUDENTS.  
EXCEPTIONAL THINKERS."



Approved By  
Central Administration





HSW

NO WRONGS. JUST WRITE.

**HSW Writing Center**  
**E208**


**PERIODS 4-8**  
MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TODAY!



Open for 12th  
grade starting  
Friday, 9/15!

Google  
Classroom  
code, 12th  
grade: [qwlkxow](#)

YOU CAN ALSO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT  
THROUGH YOUR GRADE LEVEL  
GOOGLE CLASSROOM.



# High School Writing Center



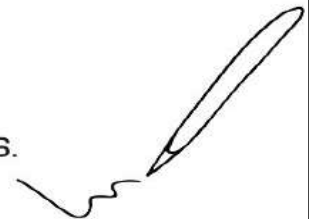


# High School Writing Center - Future Considerations

- Expansion to before/after school
- Expansion to all periods during the day
- Push - in/small group model
- Explore options for middle/elementary school
- Summer Workshops
- Student Agency Opportunities



BETTER WRITERS. STRONGER STUDENTS.  
EXCEPTIONAL THINKERS.



# On the horizon...Areas of future growth:

- K-5 ELA Resource Pilot - Review of feedback and next steps
- Continue Professional Development building both resource specific and program agnostic knowledge
- Grade 7 and 8 - Curriculum extension and enhancements
- Expand Writing Center opportunities





*Thank you!*

