

STMA English/Language Arts Philosophy Statement

We, as STMA educators, believe that:

- we must provide our students access to a rigorous, high quality curriculum in a safe and motivating environment
- all students need to continually increase their language capability through a balanced literacy approach that involves active communication in all the content areas and explicit instruction in the areas of reading, communication, writing, and word study
- students must have opportunities for recreational and academic reading at their independent and instructional levels
- students need exposure to a wide variety of texts and formats in order to better understand the world around them and to be able to critically evaluate these structures as readers, writers, and speakers
- as professionals we must continually expand our knowledge of the arts and sciences of language and make informed decisions regarding instruction and assessment
- we need to effectively scaffold our diverse students through both direct instruction and independent, self-directed learning
- we need to challenge our 21st century students to be critical, reflective, creative, technological, lifelong literacy learners in order to enrich their lives and achieve full participation in society