













# DECATUR HIGH SCHOOL

ELs shall also participate in state assessments pursuant to Georgia State Board of Education rule 160-3-1-.07 Testing Programs--Student Assessment

**Reading and Writing Support:** For students who struggle with reading and writing, as evidenced by both state-mandated end-of-grade Georgia Milestone assessments in English Language Arts for all MYP years and locally administered assessments of reading and writing (Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), Standardized Test for the Assessment of Reading (STAR) and teacher-created assessments), supports are in place to assist those students in further developing their skills:

- Reading/ELA support classes at the middle school: Remedial Education Program (REP) at the middle school and high school and Learning Center at the high school
- DHS Writing Center: available two afternoons per week; where students can get assistance from faculty and peer tutors
- Multi-Tiered System of Supports/Response to Intervention (MTSS/RtI): School-wide process in each school by which students who are struggling are identified and support strategies are systematically employed in the form of an Academic Improvement Plan (AIP)
- Special Education Services: Students who are identified with special needs in the areas of reading and writing receive intensive support and accommodations where appropriate to assure full access to the curriculum.

## **Role of the Media Centers in Language Development**

The media centers at both schools play a critical role in the development of students' language skills. Media specialists support both teachers and students in selecting academic and pleasure reading materials; planning for and conducting research; developing academic integrity; critically analyzing sources; selecting and ordering instructional materials; managing existing collections; promoting wide reading among faculty and staff; helping support the Personal Project, Internal Assessments, and the Extended Essay; and generally providing supervision and guidance as students work to become independent readers, writers and thinkers.

Some features of the BHMS/DHS media programs:

- Bi-weekly trips to the media center by all middle school ELA classes
- My Reading Life Program
- Accelerated Reader
- Extended library hours after school for support with writing or research
- Facilitating Extended Essay workshops for juniors in the Diploma Program
- Facilitated Internal Assessment workshops for juniors and seniors in the Diploma Program
- Access to JSTOR, PsychArticles, Galileo and many other databases to facilitate student research
- Media specialist created LibGuides designed to support course-specific projects or papers
- Spanish-language texts (novels, children's stories, some non-fiction) to supplement course reading materials
- Audio books to assist students who struggle with reading