

## The Advanced Language Arts Program at St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School

The purpose of the Advanced Language Arts program (ALA) is to provide the opportunity for academically capable sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students to participate in accelerated courses in the areas of literature, writing, and grammar.

The ALA program is a three year program of study beginning in sixth grade for students who are motivated and desire a more rigorous course of study that keeps them constantly challenged and interested. The demanding program of study requires a high level of academic performance, discipline, and appropriate maturity for each student participating. Consistent parental support is also required for the student's success.

### Key elements of the ALA program include:

- An accelerated reading, writing, and grammar track, enabling students to further their language arts skills.
- Rapid paced and rigorous classes, covering significantly more material than the standard class.
- Excellence in Writing program
- Small class size (the class size is limited to 18 students)
- Advanced required summer reading

### **Admission Qualifications**

#### Rising sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students must:

- Maintain a 93% average in Aquinas Language Arts and Grammar courses
- Score in the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile on the Scantron Performance Series Test in the reading and language arts sections
- Pass the mandatory placement test given at Aquinas
- Receive positive recommendation from current Language Arts teacher

Once a student is in the ALA program, they must maintain an 85% or higher in the in all three grade books for all trimesters otherwise the appropriateness of the class for that student will be reconsidered. The appropriateness of the class will also be reconsidered if the teacher and the administration feel that the student is not demonstrating the maturity or dedication that this course requires.

Applicants will be considered based on their placement test, application, and the space available in the class.

#### **Application Deadline and Testing Dates for 2019-2020 School Year**

- **Placement Test Date: Wednesday May 1, 2019**
- **Application Due: Wednesday May 1, 2019**



St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School  
**AQUINAS**  
A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

13750 Mary's Way  
Woodbridge, VA 22191  
Phone: 703.491.4447  
Fax: 703.492.8828  
www.aquinastars.org

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**Advanced Language Arts**  
at St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School

**Student Application**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Current School (if not Aquinas): \_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher Recommendation**

\_\_\_\_\_ I have submitted a form to my child's current Language Arts teacher.

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Current School (if not Aquinas): \_\_\_\_\_

**Standardized Testing**

\_\_\_\_\_ My child took the Scantron Performance Series test at Aquinas

\_\_\_\_\_ My child took a different assessment at another school. A copy of the scores is enclosed.

Name of standardized test: \_\_\_\_\_

Administering school: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of test administration: \_\_\_\_\_

**Placement Exams**

\_\_\_\_\_ My child is currently enrolled at Aquinas and will take a placement exam for rising 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grader students on Thursday May 31, 2017

\_\_\_\_\_ My child is currently enrolled in another school and will take the placement exam on the scheduled date to be determined by Aquinas after the application process is complete.

**Language Arts Grades**

\_\_\_\_\_ My child is currently enrolled at Aquinas. A copy of the final report card will be on file.

\_\_\_\_\_ My child is currently enrolled at another school. A copy of the final report card with a final grade average will be sent to the school by the testing date.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit the application, parent/guardian questionnaire, student questionnaire, and any other supporting documentation to:

St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School  
ATTN: ALA Application  
13750 Marys Way  
Woodbridge, Virginia 22191

Application Deadline: **Wednesday May 1, 2019**



## Parent Questionnaire St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School ALA Program

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Why are you interested in having your student participate in the ALA program at Aquinas?

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Describe and explain your child's regular routine for homework. How long does your child work on homework each night.

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What extra-curricular commitments does your child or your family have outside of Aquinas?

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Is there anything you would like us to know about your child as we consider your application?



## Student Questionnaire

### St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School ALA Program

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*Please print in your own handwriting. You may attach a separate sheet if needed.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Present grade \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Why are you interested in being a part of the ALA program at Aquinas?

\_\_\_\_\_

What have you heard about the ALA program at Aquinas?

\_\_\_\_\_

What do you think about homework? How much do you usually have?

\_\_\_\_\_

What is your regular routine for completing homework?

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What academic subjects do you enjoy the most? The least? What is your favorite subject?

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When you have a question or get stuck in your school work/homework what do you do?

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What other activities/clubs/teams are you involved in at Aquinas or outside of school? What is your favorite activity? How much time do you spend on these activities?



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**Advanced Language Arts**

**Student Recommendation Form, Grades 6-8**

\_\_\_\_\_ is applying for admission to the Advanced Language Arts (ALA) program for grade \_\_\_\_\_. The administration would greatly appreciate your cooperation in giving as full an appraisal as possible of this student's performance. These comments are especially helpful in assessing an applicant's qualifications. Please complete and return the recommendation to the school office at your earliest convenience. All replies will be kept confidential.

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School name (if not Aquinas) \_\_\_\_\_

School address (if not Aquinas) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*The following to be completed by the student's current Language Arts teacher:*

*Please place an X on the scale for each characteristic of the student.*

<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>Always/Good</b>	<b>Never/Poor</b>
Attentiveness in class	_____	_____
Completes homework	_____	_____
Participates in class	_____	_____
Works independently	_____	_____
Reading aptitude	_____	_____
Writing aptitude	_____	_____
Academically motivated	_____	_____
Appropriate maturity for age	_____	_____
Appropriate academic discipline	_____	_____

Manages time well

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Shows respect for teachers,  
parents, and others

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Engages challenging or difficult  
situations even if success is not  
guaranteed

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Parental support

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*Has the student ever exhibited any type of behavior that would be detrimental to the class as a whole? (If **yes**, please explain)*

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*We are particularly interested in evidence about character, relative maturity, independence, his/her values, the things about which the student is enthusiastic, and any special talents he/she may possess. We would like to know both strong and weak points. If more space is needed, please use back of this form.*

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*Overall, do you recommend this student for the ALA program at St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School? Why or why not?*

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Signature

Daytime Phone #

Date

*Please submit to:*

**St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School  
ATTN: ALA Recommendation  
13750 Mary's Way  
Woodbridge, VA 22191**

Thank You!