

## **Executive Summary: MJHS Language Arts Curriculum Proposal**

This proposal recommends the adoption of Amplify ELA (Grades 6-8) and EnlightenAI for Meridian Junior High School. Currently, the ELA curriculum relies heavily on teacher-created or teacher-funded resources. This initiative seeks to modernize instructional methods, ensure vertical alignment across the district, and provide students with immediate, high-quality feedback to drive literacy mastery.

### **Strategic Rationale**

The MJHS ELA department faces a critical transition, with one-third of the staff retiring within the next few years. Implementing a comprehensive, evidence-based program provides a vital baseline for new and inexperienced educators and supporting veteran teachers, while maintaining high academic standards.

- **K-8 Cohesion:** Amplify ELA (6-8) offers direct vertical alignment with the Amplify CKLA (K-5) curriculum already utilized at the elementary level. This ensures a seamless transition and consistent instructional language for students as they move into junior high.
- **Science of Reading Alignment:** The program is grounded in how the brain works and how students learn to read, focusing on building background knowledge across all curriculum areas including history and science.
- **Instructional Excellence:** The platform supports differentiation, providing additional scaffolds for struggling students and extensions for those excelling. A text-centered approach encourages students to write directly about what they read, fostering a continuous review of both reading and writing skills.

### **EnlightenAI: Enhancing the Writing Cycle**

To complement the curriculum, EnlightenAI will be integrated to solve the challenge of providing timely, calibrated feedback at scale.

- **Immediate Feedback:** Students receive real-time coaching based on specific rubrics, allowing for multiple revisions and deeper learning without rewriting the work for them.
- **Teacher Sustainability:** By automating the initial feedback loop, the tool reduces teacher burnout and allows educators to focus on more meaningful, one-on-one student interactions.
- **Cross-Curricular Potential:** The platform utilizes normed rubrics that can eventually be applied to writing assignments in other subjects.

### **Implementation Timeline**

The proposed rollout begins immediately following Board of Education (BOE) approval:

- May 2026: BOE approval.
- Spring/Summer 2026: Launch training provided by Amplify; additional professional development as determined by staff and the administration team.
- Fall 2026: Full implementation of the program with dedicated department time for reflection and planning.
- Spring 2027: Evaluation of semester one and refinements for the 2027–2028 academic year.

**Financial Investment**

The total estimated cost for a five-year commitment is \$42,782.44, which averages to \$8,556.49 per year.

Component	5-Year Cost Detail
Amplify ELA	\$34,207.44 (Includes licenses, PD, and shipping)
EnlightenAI	\$1,715.00 annual cost (approximately \$8,575.00 over 5 years)
Total Estimated Investment	\$42,782.44

Note: The Amplify license covers 2026–2031, with a recommendation to begin renewal negotiations in year three.

**Recommendation**

Administration recommends the Board consider the approval of the MJHS language arts curriculum proposal. Investing in Amplify and EnlightenAI provides MJHS with a rigorous, research-based framework that supports both student achievement and teacher retention.