Description of Program
Based on the School Board approved academic goals for the school district related to College and Career Readiness, beginning in November 2014, selected Grade 5 students at Tohickon Valley and Pfaff Elementary Schools will be placed in an advanced Reading and English Language Arts pilot for the remainder of the school year. The criteria for placement, description of the course, and resources are listed below. Prior to placement, parents of the selected students will be contacted and will have the option to opt out of the pilot if they wish. For Reading, English Language Arts classes, all 5th grade students will be assigned to a teacher who is perhaps not his or her homeroom teacher. Students who are not selected for the RELA Plus class will continue to be instructed with the rigorous state standards-aligned materials currently being used.

5 RELA Plus Course Description: Grade 5 students who are identified for the RELA Plus class will take an advanced approach to developing communication skills through critical reading, writing, speaking, and listening, as set forth in the Pennsylvania RELA Standards. Students will read, respond, analyze, and interpret a variety of literature, including, but not limited to, works of fiction, nonfiction, drama, and poetry. Students will demonstrate their in-depth comprehension and analytical skills through a variety of written genres and oral presentations. Students will be challenged to demonstrate their learning in innovative ways.

Curriculum
Rigorous Pennsylvania Standards will be the basis for the curriculum, utilizing the Grades 5 & 6 learning progressions. The College Board Pre-AP strategies (already utilized in Grades 6-11) will be used as a foundation.

Students in RELA Plus classes will:
- Read texts at more complex comprehension levels, and explore texts in a more in-depth manner, utilizing pre-AP strategies from both their current grade level and resources from the next higher grade level;
- Meet and exceed writing expectations based on PA Standards’ Learning Progressions;
- Develop strong work habits such as independent study, assignment management, and increased reading and writing quality and quantity;
- Complete mandatory course and enrichment readings outside of class;
- Learn and apply more sophisticated course-specific vocabulary.

The following criteria will be used to consider students placement for Grade 5 RELA Plus
- Consistent advanced Reading and English Language Arts classroom performance
- Advanced Guided Reading Level
- Results from Measure of Academic Progress: Reading and Language Usage
- Grade 4 PSSA results