

PARENT GUIDE TO

EIGHTH GRADE

First Nine Weeks Honors/STEAM

READING LANGUAGE ARTS

In our first reading and writing units, students are reviewing reading and writing skills, learning how characters and events shape a story, and writing clearly about what they've read. They are also learning to plan, draft, and revise strong responses.

- Talk about how a character's choices changed the story.
- Ask what message the author wants readers to understand.
- Encourage your student to read short news stories or articles online and tell you what they learned.
- Have your student show you a sentence from the text that supports their answer.
- Let them tell you how their writing is improving over time.
- Encourage them to write about real issues that matter to them.

MATH

Algebra I

Unit 1: Solve Linear Equations Students will extend their knowledge of isolating variables and applying inverse operations to find solutions to multi-step linear equations. They will solve equations involving the distributive property with variables on both sides and check their solutions to verify.

Unit 2: Representing Relationships Students will explore different ways to model relationships between variables using tables, graphs, equations, and verbal descriptions. They will analyze patterns and use functions to describe and predict relationships in real-world and mathematical contexts.

Unit 3: Graph Linear Functions Students will learn how to plot linear equations on a coordinate plane using various forms such as slope-intercept and standard form. They will also interpret the meaning of slope and y-intercept in real-world contexts and analyze how changes in the equation affect the graph.

Unit 4: Write Linear Equations Students will learn how to write equations of lines given information such as a graph, a pair of points, or the slope and y-intercept. They will practice converting between different forms of linear equations and apply these skills to model real-world situations.

SCIENCE

- Help your student explore how objects move by observing and recording their position, speed, and acceleration over time using simple experiments (like rolling a ball) and creating charts or graphs together.
- Assist your student in understanding how the mass of an object affects its acceleration when different forces act on it by using everyday examples and drawing simple force diagrams.
- Discuss the four basic forces in nature (gravity, electromagnetism, strong and weak nuclear forces) using relatable examples like magnets, the sun's energy, or atomic reactions.
- Support your student in explaining how changing the mass, charge, or distance between objects influences the strength of gravitational and electrical forces, using hands-on activities like experimenting with magnets or weighing objects.

8th Grade STEAM- Follows IPC Curriculum

SOCIAL STUDIES

During this grading period, students will be learning about the Colonial Era and the American Revolution. Students will learn:

- Why Europeans explored & settled in America.
- Reasons for the founding of the 13 Colonies.
- How land & climate shaped colonial life.
- How slavery shaped life in the colonies.
- Why different groups immigrated to America?
- Growth of early self-government in the colonies.
- The role of religion & thinkers like John Locke.
- Causes and effects of the American Revolution.

News and Resources All Year Long



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QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER



- What are the most important academic goals for 8th grade in your subject?
- How can I support my student in building strong study habits and organization skills this year?
- What do you expect from students in terms of independence and responsibility?
- What are common challenges 8th graders face, and how can we work together to support my student?
- How can my student take on leadership roles or get more involved this year?
- What does success look like in your classroom—academically, socially, and behaviorally?

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD LEARN AT HOME?

- Encourage daily independent reading to build stamina and vocabulary.
- Support regular review of math facts and key skills to stay sharp.
- Talk with your student about setting goals and managing their time effectively.
- Remind them to check in with teachers and take responsibility for their own learning.

DIGITAL TOOLS FOR SUCCESS FOR HOME & SCHOOL



ClassLink

The below tools are accessible through DISD's [ClassLink Portal](#). Click the ClassLink Icon to the left and login with Student ID and Password.



(Free Resource)



BEYOND ACADEMICS SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL BEHAVIOR

Character Strong:

- Knowledge (October)
- Trust (November)
- Joy (December)

Perspective-Taking: To consider a situation from another person's point of view. Skills:

- Work to understand others' thoughts & feelings.

Consider how to respond after understanding other people's point of view.

News and Resources All Year Long



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