

# PARENT GUIDE TO

# EIGHTH GRADE

## First Nine Weeks

### 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.
- 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

#### MODULE 1 Transforming Geometric Objects

In this module, your student will develop their understanding of congruence and similarity. There are three topics in this module: *Rigid Motion Transformations*, *Similarity*, and *Line and Angle Relationships*. Your student will use what they already know about geometric objects in this module.

#### MODULE 2 Developing Function Foundations

In this module, your student will deepen their understanding of proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations. There are two topics in this module: *From Proportions to Linear Relationships* and *Linear Relationships*. Your student will use what they already know about ratio and proportional relationships in this module. (Continues in Second Nine Weeks)

### SCIENCE

- Help your student use the periodic table to identify what kinds of atoms are in different chemical formulas.
- Talk about the difference between physical changes (like melting) and chemical changes (where new substances form).
- Compare acids and bases by their properties and how their pH is different from water.
- Investigate how mass stays the same during chemical reactions and how atoms rearrange, like in photosynthesis.

### 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:

- Kindness Kickoff (August)
- Respect (September)
- Responsibility (October)

#### Identify a Cause or Area to Focus On:

Have your child think about areas where kindness can make a big impact in their community, school, or social circle. This could be:

- Promoting anti-bullying in school.
- Supporting a charity or cause (e.g., homelessness, animal shelters).
- Organizing a campaign to raise awareness for mental health.
- Encouraging positive social media habits or kindness online.

News and Resources All Year Long



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