

PARENT GUIDE TO

EIGHTH GRADE

Third Nine Weeks

READING LANGUAGE ARTS

This grading period, eighth graders read a variety of informational texts and paired passages to understand how authors build and support their ideas.

Students will:

- Identify the author's main point and the reasons and facts that support it.
- Decide whether the evidence in a text is strong or weak.
- Notice how an author's word choice and tone shape the message.
- Compare two texts to see how writers explain the same topic in different ways.
- Write short responses that include a clear answer and text evidence.

MATH

In Module 4, Modeling Linear Equations, students will be deepening their algebra skills by learning how to:

- solve complex math puzzles (equations and inequalities),
- identify if equations have one answer, no answer, or countless answers,
- solve two related equations at once, system of equations, by graphing or making tables to find the common solution.

In Module 5, Applying Powers, students will be working with:

- different kinds of numbers, including irrational numbers like square roots,
- large or small numbers using scientific notation,
- the famous Pythagorean Theorem, which is a powerful tool used to find the missing side of any right-angled triangle in both math problems and real-world situations,
- essential financial skills, like investments growing over time using simple and compound interest,
- how to make smart decisions about loans, credit cards, and student loans, and
- their geometry knowledge to calculate the surface area and volume of three-dimensional shapes like cylinders, cones, and spheres to solve practical problems.

[Grade 8 Bluebonnet Learning, Family Guide](#)

SCIENCE

- Explore how Newton's three laws of motion work together in everyday things like car safety belts, sports, rides at amusement parks, earthquakes, and rocket launches.
- Learn how ecosystems recover and change after natural disasters or human actions, and how this affects animal and plant populations.
- Identify the main parts of plant and animal cells and understand what each part does, like the cell membrane, nucleus, and mitochondria.
- Talk about how differences in traits within a group of animals or plants help them survive and reproduce better over time.

SOCIAL STUDIES

This grading period, students are learning about:

- Andrew Jackson's Presidency.
- The Industrial Revolution's impact on cities, factories, inventions, and transportation.
- Reform movements and significant leaders.
- Cultural growth through art, literature, and the Second Great Awakening.
- Manifest Destiny, the Louisiana Purchase, the Mexican-American War, and effects on Native Americans.
- Sectionalism and the growing divide between North and South.
- Key causes of the Civil War.
- Compromises and conflicts in Congress
- The impact of important Supreme Court cases.

News and Resources All Year Long



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QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER



- How is my child demonstrating readiness for high school-level coursework?
- What study habits or academic routines should we strengthen before 9th grade?
- Does my child advocate for themselves when they need help, or are they hesitant to speak up?
- What areas would benefit from extra attention or review before the end of the year?
- What advice do you have to help make the transition to high school smoother – academically and socially?

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD LEARN AT HOME?

Build Self-Advocacy

Encourage your child to email teachers, ask for clarification, and take ownership of their learning. Offer support, but let them lead.

Strengthen Critical Thinking

Talk about current events, books, or class topics. Ask them to explain their reasoning or consider multiple perspectives.

Support Emotional Well-Being

Eighth graders experience stress about friendships, identity, and upcoming transitions. Remind them it's okay to ask for help and take breaks when needed.

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:

- Perseverance (January)
- Honesty (February)
- Cooperation (March)

Ways to Exhibit These Traits at Home:

- A child can show perseverance at home by finishing a difficult chore or homework task even when it takes extra time or effort.
- A child can show honesty at home by admitting to mistakes right away and telling the truth in all situations.
- A child can show cooperation at home by helping family members with shared tasks like cleaning, cooking, or organizing without being reminded.

News and Resources All Year Long



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