

PARENT GUIDE TO

EIGHTH GRADE

Fourth Nine Weeks

READING LANGUAGE ARTS

This grading period, students strengthen key reading and writing skills. They will practice writing clear responses, using text evidence, and improving sentence clarity. Students will read engaging texts and explore themes that will guide a short research project.

Students will:

- Write clear responses that include a claim and evidence.
- Organize ideas with strong reasons and explanations.
- Revise sentences to make writing smoother and more precise.
- Identify an author's claim, evidence, and perspective.
- Read new texts, identify themes, and use those themes to explore research topics.

MATH

MODULE 5 Applying Powers

In this module, students will:

- estimate the value of irrational numbers,
- use the famous Pythagorean Theorem to find the missing side of a right triangle (how GPS calculates the shortest distance between two points),
- find the volume of cylinders (soda cans), cones (party hats), and spheres (balls),
- write numbers in Scientific Notation (like the distance to the sun or the size of a cell) using powers of 10, and
- calculate Simple and Compound Interest, in the context of saving for college and loans.

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

SCIENCE

- Learn how natural events like volcanic eruptions, meteor hits, sudden changes in ocean currents, and greenhouse gases affect Earth's climate.
- Understand how human activities like cutting down trees, building cities, and releasing greenhouse gases can change the climate.
- Explore the carbon cycle and how carbon moves through the air, plants, animals, and the Earth.

SOCIAL STUDIES

- Explain how key people shaped the Civil War and Reconstruction.
- Summarize how important events and Civil War battles affected the nation.
- Analyze Lincoln's speeches describe how they inspired the country.
- Explain how the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments changed rights and freedoms for formerly enslaved persons.
- Explain how Black Codes limited rights after the Civil War and sparked political responses.
- Explain how Radical Republicans influenced Reconstruction policies.
- Prepare for the STAAR test by reviewing key concepts and vocabulary.

News and Resources All Year Long

DICKINSON
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER



- Are there any final skills or habits we should strengthen before 9th grade?
- What's your advice for helping my child stay motivated during this final stretch of middle school?
- How has my child responded to increased academic expectations this year?
- Are there any high school programs or opportunities we should be looking into now?
- What can I do this summer to support both academic success and personal growth?

LOOKING AHEAD

Preparing for Ninth Grade

High school is an exciting new chapter filled with more independence, higher expectations, and new opportunities. Families can help their soon-to-be 9th grader prepare by:

Building strong academic habits. Freshman year grades really matter. Encourage consistent study routines, completing assignments on time, and asking for help early.

Practicing time management. High school schedules include longer-term projects, extracurricular commitments, and increased responsibilities. Teach them to plan ahead and manage their week.

Focusing on well-being. Model balance, encourage sleep, and talk openly about managing emotions and seeking support 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:

- Cooperation (March)
- Courage (April)
- Creativity (May)

Cooperation means working together to reach a common goal, even when tasks feel challenging or opinions differ. Students learn how to listen, share ideas, and respect others' strengths.

Courage isn't just about being brave in big moments—it's also about speaking up, trying new things, and doing what's right even when it's difficult. Students learn that courage can look quiet or bold, and that mistakes are part of growing.

Creativity is the practice of thinking in new ways, solving problems with imagination, and expressing ideas through art, writing, design, or innovation.

News and Resources All Year Long

