

# PARENT GUIDE TO

# EIGHTH GRADE

## Third Nine Weeks Honors/STEAM

### READING LANGUAGE ARTS

This grading period, students read essays, articles, and fiction texts to explore how authors question the world around them. Students examine different viewpoints and consider how writers challenge readers to think about fairness, freedom, and responsibility.

Students will:

- Compare how writers describe similar issues from different perspectives.
- Identify an author's claim and restate it in their own words.
- Examine the reasons and evidence an author uses to support their ideas.
- Write extended and short responses that state a clear claim and use more complex sentences.

### MATH

Algebra I

#### Unit 8: Simplify Expressions

- apply the laws of exponents—such as the product rule, quotient rule, and power rule—to simplify expressions with exponents
- work with expressions involving zero and negative exponents
- learn to write answers using positive exponents only

#### Unit 9: Graph Quadratic Functions

- plot parabolas by identifying key features such as the vertex, axis of symmetry, and direction of opening
- analyze how changes in the quadratic equation affect the graph and use these graphs to solve real-world problems

#### Unit 10: Use Quadratic Functions

- write quadratic equations from graphs, tables, or real-world situations
- use these functions to model relationships
- analyze and interpret key features of quadratic functions to solve problems and make predictions

### SCIENCE

- Help your child learn about atoms and how their structure affects how elements react and connect with others.
- Use the Periodic Table together to find patterns that show how different elements behave and what they're like.
- Talk about how the properties of materials affect how we use them every day—for example, why sunscreen protects us or why certain metals are used for cooking.

8th Grade STEAM- Follows IPC Curriculum

### 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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