

PARENT GUIDE TO

EIGHTH GRADE

Second Nine Weeks

Honors/STEAM

READING LANGUAGE ARTS

Eighth-grade Honors students focus on informational texts, satire and irony, and advanced essay writing.

- Discuss a funny news story, meme, or TV moment and ask, “Is there a bigger point behind the joke?”
- Point out strong or unusual word choices in ads, music, or headlines and talk about why they stand out.
- Encourage your student to read their own writing aloud to check that every sentence is clear and complete.
- Ask about upcoming essays or projects and celebrate effort and growth, not just grades.

MATH

Unit 4: Write Linear Equations, continued

- Learn how to write the equation of a line from a graph, two points, or slope and y-intercept.
- Practice changing equations between different forms.
- Apply these skills to solve real-world problems.

Unit 5: Systems

- Learn how to find where two lines cross using graphing, substitution, or elimination.
- Apply these methods to solve real-world problems with multiple conditions.

Unit 6: Graph Exponential Functions

- Learn how to identify and graph exponential growth and decay on a coordinate plane.
- Explore key features like asymptotes and rates of change.
- Understand what the graphs mean in real-world situations.

Unit 7: Write Exponential Functions

- Learn how to write equations for exponential growth and decay using patterns, tables, or descriptions.
- Explore how the starting value and growth/decay rate affect the function.
- Apply these skills to solve real-world problems.

SCIENCE

- Build simple circuits to see how electricity flows, like in home wiring or car lights.
 - Make a device that creates electricity using magnets and electric charges.
 - Explore how heat moves through solids, liquids, and gases by feeling, observing, or using examples like cooking or weather.
 - Investigate how energy or signals travel through different materials, like how Wi-Fi works.
 - Talk about how waves can bounce, overlap, or bend and how this is used in technology like phones or medical machines.
 - Discuss how tiny particles called electrons release light when they change energy levels, helping explain things like colors and light.
- 8th Grade STEAM- Follows Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC) Curriculum.*

SOCIAL STUDIES

During this grading period, students are studying the Constitution and Government and the challenges and successes of the Early Republic. Students will learn:

- Compromises at the Constitutional Convention.
- Weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation.
- Key ideas in the Constitution and Bill of Rights.
- What Federalists and Anti-Federalists debated.
- How early presidents shaped our government.
- Domestic issues of the new republic.
- Foreign issues of the new republic.
- Causes and Effects of the War of 1812.
- Early Supreme Court cases.

News and Resources All Year Long



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HOW CAN I HELP MY Exceptional Learner

Help Them Stay Organized

- Set up a quiet space with the tools they need — pens, notebooks, folders, and a planner.
- Check in weekly (not daily!) to review assignments or upcoming projects.
- Teach them how to use a calendar or checklist to manage due dates and priorities.

Support Their Social-Emotional Growth

- Junior High brings big emotions. Be a safe place to talk about frustrations or friendships.
- Teach problem-solving and coping skills — deep breathing, writing things down, or taking a break.
- Remind them that effort, not perfection, is the goal.

LOOKING AHEAD COLLEGE & CAREER

Build Real-World Skills Now

- Encourage responsibility: chores, managing time, turning in homework on time.
- Support soft skills like communication, teamwork, and perseverance.
- Help them see the connection between what they're learning and the real world.

Explore Careers Without the Pressure

- Watch videos, visit local workplaces, or invite friends/family to share what they do for a living.
- Show your child that there are many paths to success — college, trade schools, certifications, military service, entrepreneurship, etc.

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:

- Responsibility (October)
- Gratitude (November)
- Empathy (December)

By 8th grade, teens are ready to handle more grown-up tasks. Give them **real responsibilities** that affect the household, not just personal chores.

For example:

- Managing their own school deadlines with limited reminders.
- Preparing one family meal a week.
- Budgeting their allowance or money for a specific purpose (e.g., saving for something they want.)

News and Resources All Year Long



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