

PARENT GUIDE TO

EIGHTH GRADE

Fourth Nine Weeks Honors/STEAM

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

Algebra I

Unit 10: Use Quadratic Functions Continued

Students will:

- write quadratic equations from graphs and tables,
- model real-world relationships using quadratic equations,
- use quadratic equations to interpret and predict, and
- analyze key features of quadratic functions (e.g., vertex, intercepts, axis of symmetry).

Students will also prepare for the Algebra End of Course exam as they:

- review how to solve linear equations and inequalities, graph and write linear functions,
- solve systems of linear equations,
- graph and write quadratic functions, and
- graph and write exponential functions.

SCIENCE

- Help your child explore how things like temperature, stirring, and size affect how fast substances dissolve or react.
- Talk about signs that a chemical reaction is happening, like bubbles, color changes, or heat, using simple examples like mixing vinegar and baking soda.
- Support your child in learning how to balance chemical reactions and understand that atoms don't disappear, they just rearrange.
- Encourage your child to learn about how nuclear reactions are used in technology, including their good and bad sides.
- Discuss how chemicals from reactions can affect the environment, like polluting water or air, and why that matters.

8th Grade STEAM- Follows IPC Curriculum

SOCIAL STUDIES

This grading period students are learning:

- How key people shaped the Civil War and Reconstruction.
- How important events and Civil War battles affected the nation.
- How Lincoln's speeches inspired the country.
- How the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments changed rights and freedoms for formerly enslaved persons.
- How Black Codes limited rights after the Civil War and sparked political responses.
- How Radical Republicans influenced Reconstruction policies.
- How to 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?

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD LEARN AT HOME?

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

