

Family Resources

The resources below will help connect you and your child with important learning for this school year.

We are committed to a bright future for your child!



FEDERAL WAY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FW School District #210
33330 8th Avenue South
Federal Way, WA 98003

NONDISCRIMINATION and EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT
Federal Way Public Schools does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of race, color, national origin or ethnicity, religion, creed, sex or gender, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, age, marital or family status, veteran or military status, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal. The district provides equal access to the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups. For more information: www.fwps.org

NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
Federal Way, WA
Permit No. 54

GRADE



Welcome!

Learning Partnership Guide



OUR STRATEGIC GOALS

1. THE EARLY YEARS: **Building the foundation**
2. WHOLE CHILD: **Thriving, confident, responsible individuals**
3. ACTIVE LEARNERS: **Engaged, empowered critical thinkers**
4. CONTENT-AREA COMPETENCE: **Mastery of all subjects**
5. PERSISTENCE TO GRADUATION: **High school graduation through successful transitions**

Sixth grade is an important milestone in your child's life. Your child is transitioning from an elementary scholar to a middle school scholar. This guide provides an overview of the academic standards and social-emotional milestones that your child will experience this year. Academic standards are important because they help ensure that all scholars are prepared for success. Your child understands more complex ideas. This guide is meant to support you in understanding what your child is learning, and provide ways you can speak with your child's teacher about their progress and growth over the year.

Digital Communications Tools in Federal Way Public Schools



Canvas

Canvas is a Learning Management System (LMS) that provides students and parents access to digital learning, classroom(s) weekly schedules, and more. To access Canvas, go to FWPS' Launchpad to Learning at <https://learn.fwps.org>. Your child's username is their Student ID, and their password is the same one used to log in to computers at school.



Phone Calls

Teachers may contact you using a calling system. You may notice the number may appear from a different area code than our geographical area.



Texting

Staff texting to parents and students

Communication tools are used by staff such as teachers to communicate with parents via email, texting and voice and students via email. Texting is available for students ages 13 & over. Students and parents are automatically opted in. For more information and on how to opt out, visit www.fwps.org.

School and district-wide texting to parents

Texting is also available from your child's school and the school district. More information can be found here: www.fwps.org/parentnotification.



Zoom Meetings

For some families, video conferences will be the best way to connect with your child's teacher. Your child's teacher may send you an invitation to participate in a Zoom video conference. To access this meeting on a computer, click on the link provided in the invitation. To access this meeting over the phone, you can call the number provided or download the Zoom mobile app at <https://www.zoom.us/download>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
How-to videos and resources can be found on our website at www.fwps.org

Did you know our website is translatable in our top languages?

To change the language on the FWPS website:

- Go to www.fwps.org
- Click on the 'Translation' at the top right of the webpage
- Select your preferred language from the drop-down menu

Does your child(ren) need access to a computer to access their learning at home?

Please indicate technology access needs for your child during the online registration process. If you have questions or need assistance, contact your child's school.

ParentVUE

ParentVUE is your way to check your child's grades, attendance and communicate with your child's teacher. To access ParentVUE, visit <https://grades.fwps.org>.

Parents and guardians, make sure your contact information is up to date!

In order to receive communications from the district, school and school staff, it's important that your contact information in your ParentVUE account is current.

You can update your account by visiting <https://grades.fwps.org>.

If you have not activated your ParentVUE account, please contact your child's school. To receive voice messages, ensure you have entered a mobile or home phone, and selected the corresponding type.

ParentVUE allows for two-way communication between teachers and parents in **multiple languages**. To receive messages in a language other than English, please set your preferred language on the login page of ParentVUE or on the mobile app.

When your child's teacher sends a message through ParentVUE, you will receive an email containing the message. To respond to this message, you must login to your ParentVUE account. (Do not respond to the noreply@fwps.org email notification.)

If you need assistance with ParentVUE, visit www.fwps.org/families or email grades@fwps.org.

Parent Portal

The **Parent Portal** is the place where you will find all needs related to your child's learning! Visit www.fwps.org/families to find frequently asked questions, links to common resources, "How to" videos related to digital resources, and more.



Launchpad to Learning

Launchpad to Learning is a one-stop online location that provides access to all school applications and educational resources.

Check it out at: <https://learn.fwps.org>.



FEDERAL WAY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FWPS.ORG

Reading

- In the middle school years, scholars analyze, define, compare, and evaluate ideas while reading, writing, speaking, and listening.
- Scholars will closely read rich, grade-level literary anchor texts multiple times a week.
- Units are organized around related topics and themes that help build knowledge and connect ideas.
- Scholars will cite specific text evidence to support their ideas from text.
- They will build content knowledge through wide reading of informational text.
- Scholars will use context clues and parts of words to determine the meaning of new vocabulary words.
- They will analyze figurative language, meaning, and tone.

Writing & Communication

- Scholars will practice multiple forms of writing including narrative, informational, and argumentative.
- Scholars will regularly research multiple texts and other resources to build and convey knowledge on a topic through writing and speaking.
- Scholars will process their learning through small-group and partner discussion.
- They will examine multiple perspectives and points of view on a topic through writing and speaking.

SEMESTER 1: SEPTEMBER–JANUARY

- Scholars will understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems.
- Scholars will work with algebraic expressions and exponents.
- Scholars will continue to develop their understanding of division, with fractions and decimals.

SEMESTER 2: FEBRUARY–JUNE

- Scholars will expand their understanding of ratio reasoning to include unit rates and percents.
- Scholars will write and identify equivalent expressions and understand solutions of equations.
- Scholars will understand positive and negative numbers.

Life Science

- Scholars will use models to explain the role of cells in body systems and how body systems work to support the life functions of the organism.
- Scholars will analyze data to explain the relationships and cycles in populations and ecosystems.
- Scholars will develop and use models to describe how mutations and reproduction increase genetic diversity in offspring.
- Scholars will analyze data to develop explanations for how fossil records and anatomical similarities show relationships among organisms and species (evolution).

- Participate in online projects by uploading content, photos, audio or video.
- Use the internet to locate, retrieve and organize information, recording sources.
- Use a variety of digital equipment effectively based on the learning and tools available.



Ways to talk with your child's teacher

- What is my child's reading level? Is that level below, on or above grade level? What specific skills are they working on?
- How is my child progressing in terms of meeting standards in reading, writing, speaking and listening? What are their strengths? What are areas to improve?



Ways to support your scholar at home

- Set aside time (20–30 minutes) for your child to read every day.
- Ask your scholar to share their student journal and/or readers notebook with you. Ask them questions like, "What text did you read and/or discuss in class today?" "How did what you read today connect to real life?" "What was challenging for you and how did you deal with that challenge?"
- Set aside time (15–20 minutes) for your child to work on ELA homework. Ask them questions like, "What is your homework tonight?" "How does your homework connect to today's learning, or how does it prepare you for tomorrow?"



Ways to talk with your child's teacher

- What is my child's progress on the priority standards?
- What are the best resources I can use to support my child at home?
- What are my child's strengths and weaknesses?



Ways to support your scholar at home

- Reinforce recall of multiplication and division facts by playing math games using flashcards. See how many facts your child knows from memory. Then, see if they can answer more questions the next time by playing again!
- Ask your child what they learned in school today and ask them to show you an example.
- Ask your child to explain the relationship between area, surface area and volume.

Ancient Civilizations

- The study of world civilizations allows scholars to deepen their understanding of the Earth and its peoples through the study of history, geography, politics, culture, and economic systems. Students develop higher levels of critical thinking by considering why ancient civilizations developed, where and when they did and why they declined. Scholars will also practice literacy standards as they use essential questions and inquiry to work on skills such as reading, writing, and thinking like a historian.
- Scholars evaluate the enduring contributions of ancient societies, recognizing the links between the historical and contemporary worlds.
- Scholars will consider multiple viewpoints and weigh the validity of those viewpoints by applying an analysis of evidence.
- Scholars will debate an issue using civil discourse backed with a range of credible sources.
- Scholars will use evidence to justify a claim.

- Generate simple rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic phrases within AB and ABA forms that convey expressive intent.
- Use standard and/or iconic notation and/or audio/video recording to document personal simple rhythmic phrases, melodic phrases, and two-chord harmonic musical ideas.
- When analyzing selected music, read and identify by name or function standard symbols for rhythm, pitch, articulation, and dynamics.
- Identify and apply teacher-provided criteria (such as correct interpretation of notation, technical accuracy, originality, and interest) to rehearse, refine, and determine when a piece is ready to perform.
- Have options to participate in band, orchestra, and choir.

- Demonstrate a variety of motor skills, apply knowledge related to movement and performance activities, and demonstrate skills needed to maintain a healthy level of physical activity and fitness.
- Learn to recognize the value of physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and social interaction.
- Access valid health information and use communication and decision-making skills to advocate for their own health.

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL *grade 6 milestones*

- Often behave best when away from home
- Love challenge of competition; prefer team sports and getting better at playing as a team
- Need adult empathy, humor, and sensitivity to help them cope with changing minds and bodies
- Moody, self-absorbed, and sensitive
- Like to challenge rules, argue, and test limits; may be cruel; sometimes physically aggressive
- Desire to test limits and rules is important developmental milestone
- Worry more about who's "in" and who's "out" than when they were younger
- Need lots of time to talk with peers; heavy use of cell phone and social media
- Impulsive—often talk before thinking
- Have trouble making decisions
- "Saving face" is important; not necessary for adults to "win" arguments—giving children private, physical space to think things over helps resolve problems peacefully



OUR COMMITMENT TO SCHOLARS AND FAMILIES

All scholars learn best when they experience physical and emotional safety in classrooms and schools. Scholars and families should expect to see the following adult actions:

- Provide a welcoming environment to support building trusting, encouraging relationships with all families.
- Prioritize scholar voice and participation in shaping the learning and classroom culture.
- Teach for understanding to assure scholars have high expectations and academic supports to grow intellectually.
- Focus on scholar cooperation to encourage scholars to learn from and help others.
- Implement school-wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports so that all scholars and adults live out their shared beliefs and actions that make school a safe and fun place to learn.

QUESTION & ANSWER

Q: *Who do I contact if I have a concern about my child?*

A: First, always contact your scholar's teacher/s and discuss your concern. If your concern has not been fully addressed, you can contact the school counselor or principal.

Q: *How do I stay informed about my child's progress in every class they take?*

A: ParentVUE allows you to see all of your child's courses, assignments, and current grades. If you have a concern about your child's grade, first, ask your child to speak with their teacher in that class. Your child should ask what they can do to improve the grade and make a plan to do so. If you are still concerned, contact your child's teacher directly to see how you can support your child's success in that class.

GETTING READY FOR *college & career*



COLLEGE BOUND *scholarship*

The College Bound Scholarship is an early commitment of state financial aid to eligible students who enroll in middle school and meet the pledge requirements. The College Bound Scholarship covers average tuition at public college rates, some fees, and a small book allowance at over 65 colleges, universities, and technical schools in Washington.

For the district calendar go to www.fwps.org/schoolcalendar

ATTENDANCE

Scholars who maintain good attendance through all years of school:

- Achieve grade level standard at a higher rate
- Graduate from high school at a higher rate
- Develop good habits that contribute to success in school and in future careers

For each day a scholar is absent it takes an average of three days to catch up.



BEHAVIOR & SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

The purpose behind Culturally-Responsive Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (CR-PBIS) is to make schools more effective, efficient, and equitable learning environments for all scholars. By teaching scholars expectations and acknowledging positive behavior, adults increase the predictability, consistency, positive climate, and safety of all at school. Social emotional learning skills are embedded throughout the school year. To learn more about CR-PBIS and social emotional learning at your school, contact your scholar's teacher or principal.

HIGH SCHOOL & BEYOND PLAN

Scholars should begin mapping out their High School & Beyond Plans and find out about what courses to take that will lead to specific post-secondary education, training and college plans. Grade level specific High School & Beyond Checklists can be found at www.fwps.org/CCR. Scholars can also use their www.MaiaLearning.com account to plan and discover more using interest surveys, academic planning tools and scholarships, and college and career searches. Go to MaiaLearning.com, select "Sign In with Google" and use your P12 Gmail account and password.

COURSE PERFORMANCE

GRADES 10–12 ▶ Passing an advanced course (AP, IB, CAMBRIDGE)

GRADE 9 ▶ Passing grade 9 courses earning 6 credits

GRADES 8–9 ▶ Passing Algebra 1

GRADES 6–7 ▶ Passing ELA and Math courses

GRADE 3 ▶ Reading on grade level

GRADES K–2 ▶ Learning how to read