

Welcome!

GRADE



Learning Partnership Guide

OUR STRATEGIC GOALS

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- 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



Eighth grade is an exciting time in your child's life. Your child is changing from a child to a teenager and getting ready to transition to high school. 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.



FEDERAL WAY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FWPS.ORG

EACH SCHOLAR: A VOICE. A DREAM. A **BRIGHT** FUTURE.

Reading

- In the middle school years, scholars analyze, define, compare, and evaluate ideas while reading, writing, speaking, and listening.
- Scholars will closely read rich, literary, grade-level 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 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.
- They can use research questions to gather relevant information and use that information to support a claim.
- 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 deepen their understanding of proportional relationship and define slope.
- Scholars will describe the effect of translations, rotations, and reflections and will develop an understanding of congruence and similarity in two-dimensional figures.

SEMESTER 2: FEBRUARY–JUNE

- Scholars will solve and graph linear equations and continue to work with variables.
- Scholars will develop an understanding of functions and use functions to model relationships and compare different representations.
- Scholars will understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem.

Physical Science

- Scholars will develop and use models to describe how matter and energy change during chemical reactions and phase changes.
- Scholars will investigate how contact forces and field forces affect the motion of objects.
- Scholars will analyze data to explain relationships between the motion and energy of objects.
- Scholars will develop and use models to describe how energy is transmitted through waves.

- Gather and cite sources using digital bibliography tools.
- Receive feedback by posting work online to analyze opposing views and explore alternative solutions.
- Use technology to explore and brainstorm solutions for real world problems.

**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 do you think is giving my child the most trouble? How can I help my child improve in this area?
- Are there options provided by the school for enrichment experiences in mathematics, science, technology, or engineering (STEM areas) or for scholars having difficulty in mathematics?

**Ways to support your scholar at home**

- Ask your child what they learned in school today and ask them to show you an example.
- Ask your child to tell you all of the ways you can find a solution to a system of equations.
- Ask your child to show you why the equation below is true.

$$x^{-5} \cdot x^{-7} = x^{-12}$$

SOCIAL STUDIES

US History

- In U.S. History, scholars develop a new, more abstract level of understanding of social studies concepts. The recommended context for developing this understanding is U.S. history and government, 1776 to 1877. Students explore the ideas, issues, and events from the framing of the Constitution through Reconstruction. After reviewing the founding of the United States and the Constitution, scholars explore the development of politics, society, culture, and economy in the United States to deepen conceptual understandings in civics, geography, and economics. 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 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.
- Scholars will analyze the ongoing process and effort to build a “more perfect Union” within the United States.

MUSIC

- 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.
- Evaluate their own work, applying, teacher-provided criteria such as application of selected elements of music, and use of sound sources.
- Apply teacher-provided criteria to evaluate musical works or performances.
- Have options to participate in band, orchestra, and choir.

HEALTH & FITNESS

- Use complex motor skills and strategies in a variety of individual and team activities.
- Understand how nutrition affects physical performance and appearance, and create a nutritious meal plan.
- Demonstrate the knowledge and skills to achieve and maintain a health-enhancing level of fitness.
- Use decision-making skills to enhance health and avoid or reduce health risks.



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.

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL *grade 8 milestones*

- Girls tend to focus on close friendships; boys tend to travel in small groups
- Spend hours on computer, cell phone, or playing video games
- Can think globally, but often can't act locally; for example, concerned about social justice issues, but often mean to each other
- Very concerned about personal appearance, but unconcerned about neatness of their personal environments
- Often quieter
- Like to be left alone when at home
- Moody and sensitive; anger can flare up suddenly; tend to argue or complain about fairness
- Feelings are easily hurt, and they can easily hurt others' feelings; frequent meanness may stem from being insecure or scared
- Prefer to work alone or with a single partner on a project

QUESTION & ANSWER

Q: *How do I support my scholar in preparing for high school?*

A: You can review the course catalog to gain understanding about the courses required for college and post-secondary work. You can also attend High School Planning nights held in the spring.

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.

Students who meet one of the following requirements are automatically enrolled in College Bound:

- Students who are in public school and eligible for free-and-reduced price lunch in 7th, 8th, or newly eligible in 9th grade.
- Students who are in state foster care, or a dependent of the state between 7th grade and high school graduation.

OTHER WAYS TO QUALIFY

Some students do not fit into either scenario but are interested in applying for College Bound. Students and families can contact the College Bound program to apply if they meet one of the following criteria:

- Attend a private school or homeschool program in Washington State and meet the income requirements.
- Are in another type of foster care and not eligible for free-and-reduced price lunch.

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 will be able to use their SchoolLinks account to plan for their life after high school with resources including interest surveys, academic planning tools, scholarship opportunities, and college and career searches.

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

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!



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>.

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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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



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

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ParentVUE | Parent Portal | Launchpad to Learning

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.

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

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

