Student Success Series

KINDERGARTEN

Content adapted from the National PTA Parents' Guide to Student Success

ACADEMICS

Language Arts

- Naming upper-and lower-case letters, matching those letters with their sounds, and printing them
- Retelling stories and talking about stories read to them using details from the text. Asking and answering questions about key details in stories or other information read aloud using question words.
- Using a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to describe an event, including his or her reaction to what happened
- Taking part in classroom conversations and discussions
- Learning to recognize, spell, and properly use those little grammatical words that hold the language together (e.g., a, the, to, of, from, I, is, are)
- Use phonics to decode (read) and encode (write) words.

Mathematics

- Counting objects to tell how many there are
- Comparing two groups of objects to tell which group, if either, has more; comparing two written numbers to tell which is greater
- Acting out addition and subtraction word problems and drawing diagrams to represent them
- Adding with a sum of 10 or less; subtracting from a number 10 or less; and solving addition and subtraction word problems
- Adding and subtracting very small numbers quickly and accurately (e.g., 3 + 1)
- Correctly naming shapes regardless of orientation or size (e.g., a square oriented as a "diamond" is still a square)

ASSESSMENT

KRA

Ohio's Kindergarten Readiness Assessment helps teachers understand your child's strengths and areas for growth at the start of kindergarten, allowing them to tailor instruction to best support your child's success. It's not a pass or fail test, but a tool to set your child up for a thriving kindergarten year.

Dyslexia Screening

In Ohio, schools use the MAP Reading Fluency test to assess foundational reading skills and identify students who may have characteristics of dyslexia. This is not a final diagnosis, but a helpful tool for early intervention and support.

Reading Diagnostics

In Ohio's Third Grade Reading Guarantee, the MAP Reading Fluency test helps identify students who may need extra reading support. It measures how well your child reads aloud and decodes words, to see if they're on track for reading success by the end of third grade.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT & SUPPORT

Try to create a quiet place for your child to study, and carve out time every day when your child can concentrate. You should also try to sit down with your child at least once a week for 15 to 30 minutes while he or she works on homework. This will keep you informed about what your child is working on, and it will help you be the first to know if your child needs help with specific topics.

Additionally, here are some activities you can do with your child to support learning at home:

English Language Arts & Literacy

- Read with your child every day. Ask your child to explain his or her favorite parts of the story. Share your own ideas.
- Encourage your child to tell you about his or her day at school
- Have your child describe the picture to you

Mathematics

- Ask your child questions that require counting as many as 20 things. For example, ask, “Do many children have more than 20 books about wild animals?”
- Ask your child questions that require comparing numbers. “Who is wearing more bracelets, you or your sister?” (Your child might use matching or counting to find the answer)

PORTRAIT OF A TITAN

How can I help my kindergarten student develop the competencies of a Portrait of a Titan?

ADAPTABLE

Families Can...

- Establish flexible routines and create a visual chart or schedule.
- Talk about mistakes as an opportunity for learning instead of failure.
- Encourage a positive mindset using phrases like “You can’t do this, yet...but you are trying and growing to get there!”

COMMUNICATOR

Families Can...

- Have an adult in the room to monitor and encourage positive and responsible. technology use. This includes setting clear and consistent usage time.
- Model positive interactions with appropriate language and tone of voice.
- Encourage active listening.

CRITICAL THINKER

Families Can...

- Encourage children to look for their own solutions to challenges such as fixing their coat s or opening lunch items.
- Help children identify the severity of a problem and the appropriate response.
- Use phrases such as “Is it a small problem or big problem? Did your response match?”

EMPATHETIC

Families Can...

- Recognize and identify feelings and opinions of self and others through facial expressions or body language.
- Model kindness towards others that are different or think differently than you.
- Model leaving your environment better than you found it such as picking up litter.

INNOVATIVE

Families Can...

- Encourage and celebrate curiosity.
- Provide opportunities for imaginative and creative play with items like blocks or story telling with dolls or puppets.
- Provide opportunities for exploration of the world around them. This can be a simple walk in nature together.

LEADER

Families Can...

- Encourage children to set their own goals and take ownership of the outcomes.
- Model “Shared Responsibility” such as using a family chore chart.
- Encourage and celebrate perseverance. Give praise when finishing a game or other task that is difficult.

Student Success Series

FIRST GRADE

Content adapted from the National PTA Parents' Guide to Student Success

ACADEMICS

Language Arts

- Using phonics (matching letters and sounds) and word analysis skills to figure out unfamiliar words when reading and writing
- Getting facts and information from different writings
- Writing about a topic, supplying some facts, and providing some sense of opening and closing
- Taking part in conversations about topics and texts being studied by responding to the comments of others and asking questions to clear up any confusion
- Producing and expanding complete simple and compound statements, questions, commands, and exclamations
- Identifying the correct meaning for a word, including words with multiple meanings, based on the sentence or paragraph in which the word is used (e.g., deciding whether the word bat means a flying mammal or a club used in baseball)

Mathematics

- Solving addition and subtraction word problems in situations of adding to, taking from, putting together, taking apart, and comparing (e.g., a taking from situation would be: "Five apples were on the table. I ate some apples. Then there were three apples. How many apples did I eat?")
- Quickly and accurately adding with a sum of 10 or less, and quickly and accurately subtracting from a number 10 or less (e.g., 2 + 5, 7 – 5)
- Understanding what the digits mean in two-digit numbers (place value)
- Using understanding of place value to add and subtract (e.g., 38 + 5, 29 + 20, 64 + 27, 80 – 50)
- Measuring lengths of objects by using a shorter object as a unit of length
- Making composite shapes by joining shapes together, and dividing circles and rectangles into halves or fourths

ASSESSMENT

Reading and Math MAP Tests (Fall, Winter, Spring)

The NWEA MAP tests for reading and math helps identify students who might need extra learning support. This information is part of a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) to ensure all students get the help they need to succeed.

Additionally, in Ohio's Third Grade Reading Guarantee, the MAP Reading test helps measures how well your child can decode words, to see if they're on track for reading success by the end of third grade. This is known as Ohio's *Reading Diagnostic* screening.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT & SUPPORT

Try to create a quiet place for your child to study, and carve out time every day when your child can concentrate. You should also try to sit down with your child at least once a week for 15 to 30 minutes while he or she works on homework. This will keep you informed about what your child is working on, and it will help you be the first to know if your child needs help with specific topics.

Additionally, here are some activities you can do with your child to support learning at home:

English Language Arts & Literacy

- Encourage your child to read to you books. Help him or her sound out difficult words.
- Pick a "word of the day" each day starting with a different letter
- Have your child write the word and look for other things beginning with the same letter

Mathematics

- If you open a new carton of a dozen eggs, and you use four eggs to cook dinner, close the carton and ask your child how many eggs are left
- Play the "I'm thinking of a number" game. For example, "I'm thinking of a number that makes 11 when added to 8. What is my number?"

PORTRAIT OF A TITAN

How can I help my first grade student develop the competencies of a Portrait of a Titan?

ADAPTABLE

Families Can...

- Establish flexible routines and create a visual chart or schedule.
- Talk about mistakes as an opportunity for learning instead of failure.
- Encourage a positive mindset using phrases like “You can’t do this, yet...but you are trying and growing to get there!”

COMMUNICATOR

Families Can...

- Have an adult in the room to monitor and encourage positive and responsible technology use. This includes setting clear and consistent usage time.
- Model positive interactions with appropriate language and tone of voice.
- Encourage active listening.

CRITICAL THINKER

Families Can...

- Encourage children to look for their own solutions to challenges such as fixing their coats or opening lunch items.
- Help children identify the severity of a problem and the appropriate response.
- Use phrases such as “Is it a small problem or big problem? Did your response match?”

EMPATHETIC

Families Can...

- Recognize and identify feelings and opinions of self and others through facial expressions or body language.
- Model kindness towards others that are different or think differently than you.
- Model leaving your environment better than you found it such as picking up litter.

INNOVATIVE

Families Can...

- Encourage and celebrate curiosity.
- Provide opportunities for imaginative and creative play with items like blocks or story telling with dolls or puppets.
- Provide opportunities for exploration of the world around them. This can be a simple walk in nature together.

LEADER

Families Can...

- Encourage children to set their own goals and take ownership of the outcomes.
- Model “Shared Responsibility” such as using a family chore chart.
- Encourage and celebrate perseverance. Give praise when finishing a game or other task that is difficult.

Student Success Series

SECOND GRADE

Content adapted from the National PTA Parents' Guide to Student Success

ACADEMICS

Reading

- Paying close attention to details, including text features, illustrations and graphics, in stories and books to answer who, what, where, when, why, and how questions
- Determining the lesson or moral of stories, fables, and folktales
- Writing an opinion about a book he or she has read, using important details from the materials to support that opinion
- Writing stories that include a short sequence of events and include a clear beginning, middle, and end
- Retelling key information or ideas from media or books read aloud
- Determining the meaning of the new word formed when a known prefix or suffix is added to a known word (happy/unhappy; pain/painful/painless)

Mathematics

- Solving challenging addition and subtraction word problems with one or two steps (e.g., a "one-step" problem would be: "Lucy has 23 fewer apples than Julie. Julie has 47 apples. How many apples does Lucy have?")
- Quickly and accurately adding with a sum of 20 or less (e.g., 11 + 8); quickly and accurately subtracting from a number 20 or less (e.g., 16 – 9); and knowing all sums of one-digit numbers from memory by the end of the year
- Understanding place value to add and subtract three-digit numbers (e.g., 811 – 367); adding and subtracting two-digit numbers quickly and accurately (e.g., 77 – 28)
- Measuring and estimating length in standard units
- Building, drawing, and analyzing 2-D and 3-D shapes to develop foundations for area, volume, and geometry in later grades

ASSESSMENTS

NNAT3

The NNAT3 is a test used in second grade to help identify second graders who may be gifted. It uses pictures and shapes instead of words, so it's a fair assessment for all students regardless of language skills.

Reading and Math MAP Tests (Fall, Winter, Spring)

The NWEA MAP tests for reading and math helps identify students who might need extra learning support. This information is part of a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) to ensure all students get the help they need to succeed.

Additionally, in Ohio's Third Grade Reading Guarantee, the MAP Reading test helps measure how well your child can decode words, to see if they're on track for reading success by the end of third grade. This is known as Ohio's *Reading Diagnostic* screening.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT & SUPPORT

Try to create a quiet place for your child to study, and carve out time every day when your child can concentrate. You should also try to sit down with your child at least once a week for 15 to 30 minutes while he or she works on homework. This will keep you informed about what your child is working on, and it will help you be the first to know if your child needs help with specific topics.

Additionally, here are some activities you can do with your child to support learning at home:

English Language Arts & Literacy

- Read at home every day and assist your child by reading every other paragraph.
- Have your child write a thank you note or letter to family members or friends.

Mathematics

- Look for "word problems" in real life. Some 2nd grade examples might include:
- When saving for a purchase, compare the cost of the item to the amount of money you have; then ask your child to determine how much more money he or she needs to buy the item.
- Play "draw the shape." For example, ask your child to draw a hexagon with one side longer than the others, or ask him or her to shade in a quarter of a rectangle.

PORTRAIT OF A TITAN

How can I help my second grade student develop the competencies of a Portrait of a Titan?

ADAPTABLE

Families Can...

- Establish flexible routines and create a visual chart or schedule.
- Talk about mistakes as an opportunity for learning instead of failure.
- Encourage a positive mindset using phrases like “You can’t do this, yet...but you are trying and growing to get there!”

COMMUNICATOR

Families Can...

- Have an adult in the room to monitor and encourage positive and responsible technology use. This includes setting clear and consistent usage time.
- Model positive interactions with appropriate language and tone of voice.
- Encourage active listening.

CRITICAL THINKER

Families Can...

- Encourage children to look for their own solutions to challenges such as fixing their coat s or opening lunch items.
- Help children identify the severity of a problem and the appropriate response.
- Use phrases such as “Is it a small problem or big problem? Did your response match?”

EMPATHETIC

Families Can...

- Recognize and identify feelings and opinions of self and others through facial expressions or body language.
- Model kindness towards others that are different or think differently than you.
- Model leaving your environment better than you found it such as picking up litter.

INNOVATIVE

Families Can...

- Encourage and celebrate curiosity.
- Provide opportunities for imaginative and creative play with items like blocks or story telling with dolls or puppets.
- Provide opportunities for exploration of the world around them. This can be a simple walk in nature together.

LEADER

Families Can...

- Encourage children to set their own goals and take ownership of the outcomes.
- Model “Shared Responsibility” such as using a family chore chart.
- Encourage and celebrate perseverance. Give praise when finishing a game or other task that is difficult.

Student Success Series

THIRD GRADE

Content adapted from the National PTA Parents' Guide to Student Success

ACADEMICS

Language Arts

- Reading closely to find main ideas and supporting details in a story
- Describing the logical connection between particular sentences and paragraphs in stories (e.g., first, second, third; cause and effect)
- Comparing the most important points and key details presented in two books on the same topic
- Writing opinions or explanations that group related information and develop topics with facts and details
- Writing stories that establish a situation and include details and clear sequences of events that describe the actions, thoughts, and feelings of characters
- Reading stories and poems aloud fluently, without pausing to figure out what each word means
- Distinguishing the literal and nonliteral meanings of words, such as something's fishy and cold shoulder
- Spelling correctly using phonic based rules and patterns

Mathematics

- Multiplying and dividing up to 10 × 10 quickly and accurately, including knowing the times tables from memory
- Solving word problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division
- Beginning to multiply numbers with more than one digit (e.g., multiplying 9 × 80)
- Understanding fractions and relating them to the familiar system of whole numbers (e.g., recognizing that ³⁄₁ and 3 are the same number)
- Measuring and estimating weights and liquid volumes, and solving word problems involving these quantities
- Finding areas of shapes, and relating area to multiplication (e.g., why is the number of square feet for a 9-foot by 7-foot room given by the product 9 × 7?)

ASSESSMENT

OST Reading (Fall & Spring) **OST Math** (Spring)

The Ohio State Tests in reading (given in fall and spring) and math (given in spring only) help assess your child's progress towards state standards and guide teachers in providing the best possible support. These tests are one piece of information used to ensure your child is on track for reading success by the end of third grade.

** The promotion score for grade 3 English language arts is 700 for the 2024-2025 school year. Any student who scores 700 or higher on the English language arts scaled score will be eligible for promotion to fourth grade.*

Reading and Math MAP Tests (Fall, Winter, Spring)

The NWEA MAP tests for reading and math helps identify students who might need extra learning support. This information is part of a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) to ensure all students get the help they need to succeed.

Additionally, in Ohio's Third Grade Reading Guarantee, the MAP Reading test helps measure how well your child can decode words, to see if they're on track for reading success by the end of third grade. This is known as Ohio's *Reading Diagnostic* screening. In third grade, this test score can also be used to determine promotion to fourth grade with parent permission.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT & SUPPORT

Try to create a quiet place for your child to study, and carve out time every day when your child can concentrate. You should also try to sit down with your child at least once a week for 15 to 30 minutes while he or she works on homework. This will keep you informed about what your child is working on, and it will help you be the first to know if your child needs help with specific topics.

Additionally, here are some activities you can do with your child to support learning at home:

English Language Arts & Literacy

- Make reading for fun a part of your child's daily routine
- Encourage your child to find a picture from a newspaper or magazine, cut it out, paste it on paper, and write a story about it
- Start a family vocabulary box or jar. Have everyone write down new words they discover, add them to the box, and use the words in conversation

Mathematics

- Look for "word problems" in real life. Some 3rd grade examples might include:
- Notice those everyday occasions when you find yourself using your times tables — such as to determine how many days there are in four weeks. Ask your child for the answer.
- Involve your child when you notice yourself using division to "work backward" in the times tables — such as determining how many candies each child will get if 36 candies are shared equally among nine children at a party

PORTRAIT OF A TITAN

How can I help my third grade student develop the competencies of a Portrait of a Titan?

ADAPTABLE

Families Can:

- Establish flexible routines in the morning, at bedtime, and for homework.
- Use mistakes as an opportunity for learning and reflection instead of failure.
- Encourage a positive mindset.

COMMUNICATOR

Families Can:

- Monitor and encourage positive, responsible, and age-appropriate technology use.
- Limit the use of technology to less than 2 hours of screen time per day.
- Model positive interactions with appropriate language and tone of voice.
- Encourage active listening and making eye contact while being spoken to.

CRITICAL THINKER

Families Can:

- Allow and encourage children to problem solve minor issues such as finding a misplaced item, by themselves.
- Encourage and guide children to look for their own solutions to challenges.
- Help children identify the size of a problem and the appropriate response.

EMPATHETIC

Families Can...

- Recognize and identify feelings and opinions of self and others.
- Model kindness towards others that are different, think differently, or come from different cultures.
- Model leaving your environment better than you found it, such as cleaning up after yourself.

INNOVATIVE

Families Can:

- Encourage and reward curiosity and provide supplies for creative design.
- Provide opportunities for imaginative and creative play such as building with blocks, crafting, and unstructured sports.
- Provide opportunities for exploration of the world around them in places like the zoo, museums, parks, or events.

LEADER

Families Can...

- Encourage children to set their own goals and take ownership of the outcomes.
- Model shared responsibility with the use of a chore chart.
- Encourage and celebrate perseverance such as celebrating when they play through the whole game, even when upset.

Student Success Series

FOURTH GRADE

Content adapted from the National PTA Parents' Guide to Student Success

ACADEMICS

Language Arts

- Describing the basic elements of stories — such as characters, events, and settings — by drawing on specific details in the text
- Paying close attention to key features of informational books and articles: these include understanding the main and supporting ideas; being able to compare and contrast information; and explaining how the author uses facts, details, and evidence to support particular points
- Comparing ideas, characters, events, and settings in stories and myths from different cultures
- Writing summaries or opinions about topics supported with a set of well-organized facts, details, and examples
- Paraphrasing and responding to information presented in discussions, such as comparing and contrasting ideas and analyzing evidence that speakers use to support particular points
- Writing complete sentences with correct capitalization and spelling

Mathematics

- Using whole-number arithmetic to solve word problems, including problems with remainders and problems with measurements
- Adding and subtracting whole numbers quickly and accurately (numbers up to 1 million)
- Multiplying and dividing multi-digit numbers
- Understanding and applying equivalent fractions
- Adding, subtracting, and multiplying fractions in simple cases and solving related word problems
- Understanding simple decimals in terms of fractions (e.g., rewriting 0.62 as $^{62}/_{100}$)
- Measuring angles and finding unknown angles in a diagram

ASSESSMENT

OST Reading (Spring)
OST Math (Spring)

The Ohio State Tests in reading and math help teachers understand your child's strengths and weaknesses and also inform how schools are doing overall. These tests are one piece of information used to improve learning for all fourth graders in Ohio.

Reading and Math Benchmark Assessments (Fall, Winter, Spring)

The NWEA MAP tests for reading and math helps identify students who might need extra learning support. This information is part of a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) to ensure all students get the help they need to succeed.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT & SUPPORT

Try to create a quiet place for your child to study, and carve out time every day when your child can concentrate. You should also try to sit down with your child at least once a week for 15 to 30 minutes while he or she works on homework. This will keep you informed about what your child is working on, and it will help you be the first to know if your child needs help with specific topics.

Additionally, here are some activities you can do with your child to support learning at home:

English Language Arts & Literacy

- Urge your child to use logical arguments to defend his or her opinion. If your child wants a raise in allowance, ask him or her to research commonsense allowance systems and, based on that research, explain reasons why, supported by facts and details
- Talk about the news together. Pick one story in the news, read it together, and discuss with your child what it means

Mathematics

- Ask your child to compare numbers using phrases like “times as much.” For example, if the family cat weighs 8 lbs. and the family dog weighs 56 lbs., how many times as much does the dog weigh?
- Ask your child to help you compare fractional amounts — for example, if one recipe calls for ⅔ of a cup of oil, but another recipe calls for ¾ of a cup of oil, which recipe calls for more oil?

PORTRAIT OF A TITAN

How can I help my fourth grade student develop the competencies of a Portrait of a Titan?

ADAPTABLE

Families Can:

- Establish flexible routines in the morning, at bedtime, and for homework.
- Use mistakes as an opportunity for learning and reflection instead of failure.
- Encourage a positive mindset.

COMMUNICATOR

Families Can:

- Monitor and encourage positive, responsible, and age-appropriate technology use.
- Limit the use of technology to less than 2 hours of screen time per day.
- Model positive interactions with appropriate language and tone of voice.
- Encourage active listening and making eye contact while being spoken to.

CRITICAL THINKER

Families Can:

- Allow and encourage children to problem solve minor issues such as finding a misplaced item, by themselves.
- Encourage and guide children to look for their own solutions to challenges.
- Help children identify the size of a problem and the appropriate response.

EMPATHETIC

Families Can...

- Recognize and identify feelings and opinions of self and others.
- Model kindness towards others that are different, think differently, or come from different cultures.
- Model leaving your environment better than you found it, such as cleaning up after yourself.

INNOVATIVE

Families Can:

- Encourage and reward curiosity and provide supplies for creative design.
- Provide opportunities for imaginative and creative play such as building with blocks, crafting, and unstructured sports.
- Provide opportunities for exploration of the world around them in places like the zoo, museums, parks, or events.

LEADER

Families Can...

- Encourage children to set their own goals and take ownership of the outcomes.
- Model shared responsibility with the use of a chore chart.
- Encourage and celebrate perseverance such as celebrating when they play through the whole game, even when upset.

Student Success Series

FIFTH GRADE

Content adapted from the National PTA Parents' Guide to Student Success

ACADEMICS

Language Arts

In grade 5 students study:

- Summarizing the key details of stories, dramas, poems, and nonfiction materials.
- Identifying and judging evidence that supports ideas in an author's argument to change a reader's point of view.
- Integrating information from print and digital sources to answer questions and solve problems.
- Writing opinions that offer reasoned arguments and provide facts and examples and writing stories, real or imaginary, that unfold naturally.
- Building knowledge of academic words with an emphasis on those that signal a contrast in ideas or logical relationships.

Mathematics

In grade 5 students study:

- Adding and subtracting fractions.
- Multiplying fractions; dividing fractions.
- Generalizing the place-value system to include decimals, and calculating with decimals to the hundredths place (two places after the decimal).
- Multiplying whole numbers quickly and accurately.
- Understanding the concept of volume, and solving word problems that involve volume.
- Graphing points in the coordinate plane (two dimensions) to solve problems.
- Analyzing mathematical patterns and relationships.

Science

In grade 5 science students study:

- Life science: Foundational knowledge of the structures and functions of ecosystems.
- Earth science: Characteristics, cycles and patterns in the solar system and within the universe.
- Physical science: Light and sound are explored as forms of energy that move in predictable ways.

Social Studies

In grade 5 students study:

- The Western Hemisphere (North and South America), its geographic features, early history, cultural development and economic change. Students learn about the early inhabitants of the Americas and the impact of European exploration and colonization.

ASSESSMENT

Reading, Math, Science Benchmark Assessments

(Fall, Winter, Spring)

OST in ELA, Mathematics, Science

(Spring)

PORTRAIT OF A TITAN

How can I help my 5th grade student develop the competencies of a Portrait of a Titan?

ADAPTABLE

Families can:

- Help their child recognize both their strengths and areas in which they need to grow by regularly reviewing grades, settling realistic goals and steps for improvement.
- Encourage your child to take advantage of re-learning opportunities.
- Help your child reflect on their behavior and reinforce that actions have consequences.
- Help your child identify options for working through difficult situations.

COMMUNICATOR

Families can:

- Help your child write their own email to communicate to a teacher.
- Model and encourage respectful, school-appropriate language.
- Monitor your child's online activity.
- Reinforce **THINK** philosophy when speaking, writing, and posting on social media. Is it **T**rue **H**elpful, **I**nspiring, **N**ecessary, **K**ind?
- Model active listening by responding with empathy and follow-up questions.

CRITICAL THINKER

Families can:

- Come up with more than one possible solution to everyday problems; evaluate pros and cons of each.
- Help students evaluate information before acting on it; consider the source, and accuracy.
- Help students support decisions with accurate information and use evidence to support choices.
- Encourage child(ren) to change their mind in light of new information.

EMPATHETIC

Families can:

- Hear and respect those who are different from you.
- Find opportunities to include others.
- Ask "how did your actions / decisions impact others around you?"
- Ask "how do you think that person felt/would feel?"

INNOVATIVE

Families can:

- Encourage creative thinking by asking students to come up with new ideas for solving problems at school and home.
- Try to "fix" a broken item at home, or disassemble broken items to understand how it works.
- Encourage questions from their child(ren) that challenge the "status quo," and start a discussion about how they might change it.
- Encourage your child(ren) to ask "why", and take time to answer "why".

LEADER

Families can:

- Give your child(ren) opportunities to make age-appropriate decisions around the house; take initiative.
- Ask for their input and feedback.
- Evaluate situations and decisions with them.
- Require age-appropriate chores and responsibilities at home.

Student Success Series

SIXTH GRADE

Content adapted from the National PTA Parents' Guide to Student Success

ACADEMICS

Language Arts

In grade 6 language arts students study:

- Evaluating the argument and specific claims in written materials.
- Presenting claims and findings to others orally. sequencing ideas logically.
- Writing brief reports that examine a topic, have a clear focus, and include relevant facts, details, and quotations.
- Reviewing and paraphrasing key ideas and multiple perspectives of a speaker.
- Determining the correct meaning of a word based on the context in which it is used .

Mathematics

In grade 6 mathematics students study:

- Understanding ratios and rates, and solving problems involving proportional relationships.
- Dividing fractions and solving related word problems Using positive and negative numbers together to describe quantities.
- Working with variables and expressions by generalizing the way numbers work.
- Writing equations to solve word problems and describe relationships between quantities.
- Reasoning about relationships between shapes to determine area, surface area, and volume.

Science

In grade 6 science students study:

- Life Science: The basics of Modern Cell Theory. All organisms are composed of cells, which are the fundamental unit of life. All cells come from pre-existing cells.
- Earth Science: Rocks, minerals and soil, which make up the lithosphere. Classifying and identifying different types of rocks, minerals and soil.
- Physical Science: Foundational concepts of the particulate nature of matter, linear motion, kinetic and potential energy.

Social Studies

In grade 6 social studies students study:

- The Eastern Hemisphere (Africa, Asia, Australia and Europe), its geographic features, early history, cultural development and economic change. Students learn about the development of river civilizations in Africa and Asia, including their governments, cultures and economic systems.

ASSESSMENT

Reading, Math, Science MAP Benchmark Assessments

(Fall, Winter, Spring)

PORTRAIT OF A TITAN

How can I help my 6th grade student develop the competencies of a Portrait of a Titan?

ADAPTABLE

Families can:

- Help their child recognize both their strengths and areas in which they need to grow by regularly reviewing grades, settling realistic goals and steps for improvement.
- Encourage your child to take advantage of re-learning opportunities.
- Help your child reflect on their behavior and reinforce that actions have consequences.
- Help your child identify options for working through difficult situations.

COMMUNICATOR

Families can:

- Help your child write their own email to communicate to a teacher.
- Model and encourage respectful, school-appropriate language.
- Monitor your child's online activity.
- Reinforce **THINK** philosophy when speaking, writing, and posting on social media. Is it **T**rue **H**elpful, **I**nspiring, **N**ecessary, **K**ind?
- Model active listening by responding with empathy and follow-up questions.

CRITICAL THINKER

Families can:

- Come up with more than one possible solution to everyday problems; evaluate pros and cons of each.
- Help students evaluate information before acting on it; consider the source, and accuracy.
- Help students support decisions with accurate information and use evidence to support choices.
- Encourage child(ren) to change their mind in light of new information.

EMPATHETIC

Families can:

- Hear and respect those who are different from you.
- Find opportunities to include others.
- Ask "how did your actions / decisions impact others around you?"
- Ask "how do you think that person felt/would feel?"

INNOVATIVE

Families can:

- Encourage creative thinking by asking students to come up with new ideas for solving problems at school and home.
- Try to "fix" a broken item at home, or disassemble broken items to understand how it works.
- Encourage questions from their child(ren) that challenge the "status quo," and start a discussion about how they might change it.
- Encourage your child(ren) to ask "why", and take time to answer "why".

LEADER

Families can:

- Give your child(ren) opportunities to make age-appropriate decisions around the house; take initiative.
- Ask for their input and feedback
- Evaluate situations and decisions with them.
- Require age-appropriate chores and responsibilities at home.

Student Success Series

SEVENTH GRADE

Content adapted from the National PTA Parents' Guide to Student Success

ACADEMICS

Language Arts

- Citing several sources of specific evidence from a piece when offering an oral or written analysis of a book, essay, article, or play.
- Organizing and focusing his or her own writing, including supporting statements and conclusions with evidence and showing that the evidence is accurate and reliable.
- Conducting research in response to a specific question by drawing on evidence from several credible literary or informational sources to support an analysis or reflection.
- Presenting claims and findings to others emphasizing main points, making eye contact, speaking loudly enough, pronouncing words clearly,
- Using common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to defining the meaning of a word.

Mathematics

- Analyzing proportional relationships (e.g., by graphing in the coordinate plane), and distinguishing proportional relationships from other kinds of mathematical relationships.
- Solving percent problems (e.g., tax, tips, and markups and markdowns).
- Solving word problems that have a combination of whole numbers, fractions, and decimals.
- Solving problems involving scale drawings.
- Using statistics to draw inferences and make comparisons.

Science

In grade 7 science students will study

- Life Science: The impact of matter and energy transfer within ecosystems
- Earth Science: Earth's hydrologic cycle,, the relationship between thermal energy and currents, and the relative position and movement of the Earth, sun moon.
- Physical Science: Arrangements of atoms on the Periodic Table of Elements, conservation of mass and energy, transformation and transfer of energy

Social Studies

In grade 7 social studies students will study

- World history, beginning with ancient Greece and continuing through global exploration. Students illustrate how historic events are shaped by geographic, social, cultural, economic and political factors. Students develop their understanding of how ideas and events from the past have shaped the world today.

ASSESSMENT

Reading, Math, Science MAP Benchmark Assessments

(Fall, Winter, Spring)

PORTRAIT OF A TITAN

How can I help my 7th grade student develop the competencies of a Portrait of a Titan?

ADAPTABLE

Families can:

- Help their child recognize both their strengths and areas in which they need to grow by regularly reviewing grades, settling realistic goals and steps for improvement.
- Encourage your child to take advantage of re-learning opportunities.
- Help your child reflect on their behavior and reinforce that actions have consequences.
- Help your child identify options for working through difficult situations.

COMMUNICATOR

Families can:

- Help your child write their own email to communicate to a teacher.
- Model and encourage respectful, school-appropriate language.
- Monitor your child's online activity.
- Reinforce **THINK** philosophy when speaking, writing, and posting on social media. Is it **T**rue **H**elpful, **I**nspiring, **N**ecessary, **K**ind?
- Model active listening by responding with empathy and follow-up questions.

CRITICAL THINKER

Families can:

- Come up with more than one possible solution to everyday problems; evaluate pros and cons of each.
- Help students evaluate information before acting on it; consider the source, and accuracy.
- Help students support decisions with accurate information and use evidence to support choices.
- Encourage child(ren) to change their mind in light of new information.

EMPATHETIC

Families can:

- Hear and respect those who are different from you.
- Find opportunities to include others.
- Ask "how did your actions / decisions impact others around you?"
- Ask "how do you think that person felt/would feel?"

INNOVATIVE

Families can:

- Encourage creative thinking by asking students to come up with new ideas for solving problems at school and home.
- Try to "fix" a broken item at home, or disassemble broken items to understand how it works.
- Encourage questions from their child(ren) that challenge the "status quo," and start a discussion about how they might change it.
- Encourage your child(ren) to ask "why", and take time to answer "why".

LEADER

Families can:

- Give your child(ren) opportunities to make age-appropriate decisions around the house; take initiative.
- Ask for their input and feedback.
- Evaluate situations and decisions with them.
- Require age-appropriate chores and responsibilities at home.

Student Success Series

EIGHTH GRADE

Content adapted from the National PTA Parents' Guide to Student Success

ACADEMICS

Language Arts

- Citing the evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what is explicitly stated and/or implied from a book, article, poem, or play.
- Analyzing where materials on the same topic disagree on matters of fact, interpretation, or point of view.
- Building writing around strong central ideas or points of view; supporting the ideas with sound reasoning and evidence.
- Analyzing the purpose of information in diverse media (print, TV, web) and evaluating its social, political, commercial purpose.
- Presenting findings and claims to others, emphasizing key points with evidence .

Mathematics

- Understanding slope, and relating linear equations in two vari- ables to lines in the coordinate plane.
- Solving linear equations and writing equations to solve related word problems.
- Understanding functions as rules that assign a unique output number to each input number; using linear functions to model relationships.
- Analyzing statistical relationships by using a best-fit line (a straight line that models an association between two quantities).
- Working with positive and negative exponents, square root and cube root symbols, and scientific notation.

Science

In grade 8 science students will study:

- Life Science: Species and reproduction with focus on continuation of the species.
- Earth Science: The physical features of Earth and how they formed. Including the interior of Earth, plate tectonics, and landforms.
- Physical Science: Forces and motion within, on and around Earth and within the universe.

Social Studies

In grade 8 social studies students will study

- European exploration and the early years of the United States. Students will study a chronologic view of the development of the United States. Students examine how historic events are shaped by geographic, social, cultural, economic and political factors.

ASSESSMENT

Reading, Math, Science MAP Benchmark Assessments
(Fall, Winter, Spring)

Ohio State Tests in ELA, Mathematics, Science

PSAT 8/9

PORTRAIT OF A TITAN

How can I help my 8th grade student develop the competencies of a Portrait of a Titan?

ADAPTABLE

Families can:

- Help their child recognize both their strengths and areas in which they need to grow by regularly reviewing grades, settling realistic goals and steps for improvement.
- Encourage your child to take advantage of re-learning opportunities.
- Help your child reflect on their behavior and reinforce that actions have consequences.
- Help your child identify options for working through difficult situations.

COMMUNICATOR

Families can:

- Help your child write their own email to communicate to a teacher.
- Model and encourage respectful, school-appropriate language.
- Monitor your child's online activity
- Reinforce **THINK** philosophy when speaking, writing, and posting on social media. Is it **T**rue, **H**elpful, **I**nspiring, **N**ecessary, **K**ind?
- Model active listening by responding with empathy and follow-up questions.

CRITICAL THINKER

Families can:

- Come up with more than one possible solution to everyday problems; evaluate pros and cons of each.
- Help students evaluate information before acting on it; consider the source, and accuracy.
- Help students support decisions with accurate information and use evidence to support choices.
- Encourage child(ren) to change their mind in light of new information.

EMPATHETIC

Families can:

- Hear and respect those who are different from you.
- Find opportunities to include others
- Ask "how did your actions / decisions impact others around you?"
- Ask "how do you think that person felt/would feel?"

INNOVATIVE

Families can:

- Encourage creative thinking by asking students to come up with new ideas for solving problems at school and home.
- Try to "fix" a broken item at home, or disassemble broken items to understand how it works.
- Encourage questions from their child(ren) that challenge the "status quo," and start a discussion about how they might change it.
- Encourage your child(ren) to ask "why", and take time to answer "why".

LEADER

Families can:

- Give your child(ren) opportunities to make age-appropriate decisions around the house; take initiative.
- Ask for their input and feedback
- Evaluate situations and decisions with them.
- Require age-appropriate chores and responsibilities at home.

Student Success Series

HIGH SCHOOL

Content adapted from the National PTA Parents' Guide to Student Success

ACADEMICS

Academic standards are important because they help ensure that all students, no matter where they live, are prepared for success in college and the workforce. Standards provide an important first step; a clear roadmap for learning for teachers, parents, and students. Having clearly defined goals helps families and teachers work together to ensure that students succeed. They also will help your child develop critical thinking skills that will prepare him or her for college and career.

Ohio's Learning Standards | **Graduation Requirements & Seals**

ASSESSMENT

Students must take a series of tests to graduate in Ohio. These tests are end of course exams for certain classes that are required for graduation. The following tests are required: *English II, Algebra I, Geometry, American History, American Government and Biology.* Students must earn a **passing** score **on Ohio's Algebra I and English II End-of-Course** (EOC) Exams. Students not passing on the first attempt will be provided additional support and a chance to retake at least once. A score of 684-699 is considered competent and is "passing" according to the 2023 Ohio Graduation Requirements. Ohio's State Tests

PSAT & SAT Testing: Each fall, the College Board offers the PSAT/NMSQT to college-bound juniors. Berea-Midpark HS typically allows sophomores in advanced/honors classes to also take this test. Juniors who place in the top 1% nationally are eligible to compete in the National Merit Scholarship program. Each year in March, the SAT test will be given to all Junior students (free of charge) at Berea-Midpark High School, free of charge. ACT & SAT Information

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT & SUPPORT

At the beginning of high school, sit down with your child's teachers, counselor or other advisor to discuss what it will take for your child to graduate, your child's goals, and their plans after high school. Create a plan together to help your child reach these goals. This plan should include an appropriate course sequence and list of extracurriculars to meet your student's goals.

Parents play a vital role in helping their students succeed at school by being informed, and offering help and guidance. Although students at this level of schooling are becoming more independent, communication with your student and their teachers is important for academic success.

PORTRAIT OF A TITAN

How can I help my high school student develop the competencies of a Portrait of a Titan?

ADAPTABLE

Families Can:

- Encourage new experiences such as a club, sport, volunteer or activity, to help students become comfortable with change in different environments.
- Give your student opportunities to make decisions and solve problems on their own
- Encourage your student to become friends with someone of a different background.
- Inspire your student to set realistic expectations and be open to feedback.

COMMUNICATOR

Families Can:

- Teach your student about the importance of appropriate digital communication such as privacy settings and social media use.
- Encourage your student to practice active listening at home during conversations.
- Motivate your student to self-advocate with school professionals.
- Encourage your student to share about their school day with you.

CRITICAL THINKER

Families Can:

- Encourage students to identify problems and propose possible solutions.
- Encourage students to evaluate the reliability and accuracy of information sources.
- Ask students to give logical reasoning and evidence to support their thinking and decision-making.

EMPATHETIC

Families Can:

- Help students to understand how their actions impact others.
- Lead by example and model kindness and openness to other opinions and cultures.
- Encourage your student to take care of environments at home and in the community.

INNOVATIVE

Families Can:

- Offer access to books, resources, and educational programs that align with their interests.
- Help your student identify issues or concerns they are passionate about, and encourage them to think about creative solutions to those issues.
- Help your student understand that failure and healthy risk-taking is part of the learning process.

LEADER

Families Can:

- Give students opportunities to take initiative, make decisions, and self-reflect.
- Empower your students opportunities to lead at home such as completing chores, cooking dinner, or encouraging volunteer work.
- Encourage students to be a positive role model to other family members.