

# Parents' Guide to Student Success



This guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of 6th grade in English Language Arts and mathematics. This guide is based on West Virginia's College and Career Readiness Standards. If your child is meeting expectations outlined in these standards, he or she will be well prepared for 7th grade.

## 6TH GRADE

### English Language Arts & Literacy

In 6th grade English Language Arts, students transition from elementary to middle school literacy by developing stronger analytical thinking, evidence-based writing, and more advanced communication skills. By the end of 6th grade, students are expected to think critically about what they read, support their ideas with evidence, and communicate clearly in both writing and discussion. These skills mark an important shift toward the independence and rigor required for middle school and beyond.

#### Example classroom activities:

- Move beyond basic comprehension to deeper analysis of texts
- Cite textual evidence to support ideas and inferences
- Determine theme or central idea and explain how it develops
- Analyze how characters, events, or ideas evolve over a text
- Interpret figurative language and word meanings in context
- Compare different texts, genres, or perspectives
- Write argumentative essays with clear claims and supporting evidence
- Develop informative/explanatory writing to explore topics in depth
- Create narratives with effective sequencing, description, and dialogue

### Mathematics

In 6th grade, students move from basic arithmetic into more advanced concepts that prepare them for algebra. The focus shifts toward reasoning, problem-solving, and understanding relationships between numbers and variables. By the end of 6th grade, students are expected to think more abstractly about numbers and relationships, especially through ratios and algebraic reasoning. These skills form the foundation for pre-algebra and algebra, setting students up for success in later middle school mathematics and beyond.

#### Example classroom activities:

- Develop an understanding of rate (e.g., If it took 8 hours to mow 4 lawns, then 1 lawn can be mowed in 2 hours)
- Write equations to solve word problems
- Reason about statistics
- Use positive and negative numbers to represent quantities in real-world contexts
- Understand negative numbers as numbers on the number line
- Determine area, surface area, and volume of various shapes