

Parents' Guide to Student Success



This guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of 7th 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 8th grade.

7TH GRADE

English Language Arts & Literacy

In 7th grade English Language Arts, students continue to strengthen critical thinking, reading analysis, and evidence-based communication. Compared to earlier grades, there is a stronger emphasis on analyzing texts deeply, writing with clear arguments, and using evidence from multiple sources. By the end of 7th grade, students are expected to analyze texts critically, support ideas with strong evidence, and communicate clearly in both writing and discussion. These skills prepare them for the increased rigor of upper middle school and high school coursework, with a strong foundation in argumentation, analysis, and independent thinking.

Example classroom activities:

- Engage with more complex texts and are expected to analyze them thoughtfully
- Cite multiple pieces of textual evidence to support analysis
- Determine themes or central ideas and explain how they develop
- Analyze how characters, plot, or ideas evolve over time
- Examine how word choice, tone, and structure impact meaning
- Compare texts and evaluate different perspectives or arguments
- Write argumentative essays that include claims, counterclaims, and evidence
- Produce informative/explanatory writing using facts and clear organization
- Develop narratives with well-structured plots and descriptive techniques

Mathematics

In 7th grade mathematics, students build on earlier math skills and move more fully into pre-algebra concepts. The focus is on applying mathematical reasoning to real-world problems, working with rational numbers, and understanding relationships between quantities. By the end of 7th grade, students are expected to confidently work with rational numbers, proportional reasoning, and algebraic expressions. These skills are essential for success in 8th grade math and Algebra I, helping students transition from arithmetic to more advanced mathematical thinking.

Example classroom activities:

- Use proportional reasoning to solve problems
- Solve two-step equations
- Use statistics to make decisions
- Solve percent problems (e.g., tax, tips, markup, and markdown)
- Create a drawing that accurately shows an object with actual sizes reduced or enlarged
- Understand and find probabilities of events