

Parents' Guide to Student Success



This guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of 8th 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 9th grade.

8TH GRADE

English Language Arts & Literacy

A 8th grade English Language Arts focuses on building students' ability to think critically, communicate effectively, and engage deeply with a variety of texts. These standards are designed to prepare students for success in both college and future careers by emphasizing analysis, evidence-based reasoning, and real-world communication skills.

Example classroom activities:

- Read increasingly complex texts such as novels, short stories, poems, and informational articles
- Analyze themes, characters, and plot development
- Interpret figurative language and tone
- Cite textual evidence to support ideas
- Compare multiple texts and perspectives
- Argumentative writing (supporting claims with evidence)
- Informative/explanatory writing (explaining ideas clearly)
- Narrative writing (developing real or imagined experiences)

Mathematics

In 8th grade mathematics, students develop a range of skills that prepare them for high school and beyond. Across all areas, they strengthen problem-solving, critical thinking, reasoning, and communication skills, enabling them to model real-world situations mathematically and justify their solutions. By the end of 8th grade, students should be able to reason abstractly with numbers and relationships, model real-world situations with mathematics, and interpret and explain their solutions. These skills ensure a strong foundation for algebra and higher math in high school.

Example classroom activities:

- Compare and order real numbers, including irrational numbers
- Develop an understanding of functions
- Use statistics to make predictions
- Work with positive and negative exponents, square root and cube root symbols, and scientific notation
- Solve multi-step equations and inequalities
- Develop an understanding of congruence and similarity