GEORGIA CLASSROOM

Getting Ready for Middle School

Want to practice school skills?

Below are suggestions of skills families might explore together outside of school.

Physical Health and Wellness

- Understands the importance of being physically active (goal: 60 minutes daily); identifies different types of exercises (aerobics, strength, flexibility)
- Sets realistic short- and long-term goals (academic, health, personal)
- Practices healthy eating habits (balanced diet, washing produce, portion sizes); knows how to read food labels and make healthier choices
- Understands how sleep, hygiene, and puberty changes affect health; demonstrates daily hygiene and safe practices
- Identifies when overwhelmed/stressed and can implement age-appropriate coping strategies (e.g. talking it out, doing something they love, exercising, positive self-talk); works with a trusted adult to expand their list of strategies
- Uses reliable sources for health information; understands consequences of health-related decisions
- Handles rejection and setbacks in healthy ways; accepts mistakes and rejection as opportunities for growth
- Handles rejection and setbacks in healthy ways
- Maintains positive self-concept and body image
- Practices teamwork, cooperation, and respectful communication
- Recognizes how peer pressure can affect decision-making
- Knows risks of tobacco, vaping, alcohol, and drugs

English Language Arts

- Builds and shares knowledge as they engage with others in a range of settings and for a variety of purposes, collaborating with others to accomplish shared goals and projects. ELA Summer Project (p. 4-5) Activity: Families can engage in discussions about any topic that interests them. Possible discussion topics could be sports, books, movies, food, history, technology, television, music, careers, friends, current events, etc.
- Uses knowledge of language and its conventions when interpreting and constructing texts Example Activity (p. 49-50); ELA Summer Project (p. 12)
- Uses information from multiple print and digital texts to address a specific topic or question, assessing source credibility and relevance and integrating evidence properly Example Activity (p. 29-30); ELA Summer Project (p. 3-7)
- Reads fluently and accurately to comprehend texts Example Activity (p. 2, 32); ELA Summer Project (p. 4); Activity: Practice reading aloud. Audience can be a pet or stuffed animal. Focus on accuracy, pacing, and expression.
- Creates developed, well-organized writing that is appropriate for a specific purpose and audience Example Activity (p. 12-13); ELA Summer Project (p. 8-11)
- Conducts short research projects to build knowledge Example Activity (p. 52-53); ELA Summer Project (p. 4-7)
- Summarizes or paraphrases information from experiences/information from digital and print sources in notes; keeps a record of sources Example Activity (p. 35-36); ELA Summer Project (p. 4-13)

Social Studies

- Describes how life in America changed and how the U.S. emerged as a world power during the presidencies of William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt. 6th grade Social Studies Prep Activity
- Describes how the U.S. victory in the Spanish-American War expanded our influence in Latin America and the Pacific (Philippines & Hawaii) as well as adding U.S. territories in Guam and Puerto Rico.
- Explains the role of the U.S. in building and managing the Panama Canal until 1999. 6th grade Social Studies Prep Activity
- Describes how concerns over the safety of U.S. ships led the United States to enter World War I in Europe against Germany.
- Describes how the outcomes of World War II led to the Cold War, and how this affected American life.
- Describes how President Ronald Reagan's policies of "peace through strength" were involved in the collapse of the Soviet Union.
- Explains how various factors (location of natural resources, farming, factories) influence where people live (population-urban versus rural) and infrastructure (transportation). 6th grade Social Studies Prep Activity
- Explains how the Constitution was designed to establish a basic system of government for the United States as well as to protect the rights of its citizens (Bill of Rights; amendments; due process).
- Describes that a representative democracy/republic is a government where the people elect representatives to speak for them; explains the importance of each of the listed amendments to a representative democracy/republic and how each amendment extended and protected voting rights for more Americans. 6th Grade Social Studies Prep Activity
- Describes how the sectors of households, businesses, banks, and government interact in the modern, capitalist, free-enterprise economy of the US. 6th Grade Social Studies Prep Activity
- Describes how the government uses taxes to provide public goods and services like schools, police departments, public parks, and roads. 6th grade Social Studies Prep Activity
- Explains how businesses supply goods and services to meet the wants of American consumers and that these purchases by consumers support businesses.
- Explains how a budget helps individuals determine where they should allocate their finances.
- Explains that a person sells their labor to a business in order to gain income (i.e. working for a company to earn a paycheck); describes risks and benefits of being an entrepreneur/business owner.

For more activity ideas, visit the Georgia Classroom and the Digital Learning Plans for Social Studies.

Science

- Identifies surface features through destructive or constructive processes. Example Activity.
- Observes how changes in temperature cause particle movement and state change in water. Explores how a chemical change can occur. Example Activity.
- Explores the differences between human-harnessed electricity and static electricity. Describes and explores simple circuits. Example Activity.
- Describes the differences in how a magnet and electromagnet function. Draws a model that shows how animals and plants can be organized. Example Activity.
- Explores and explains how plants and animals are made of cells.
- Identifies cell parts, and explains the similarities and differences between plant and animal cells. Example Activity.

For more activity ideas, visit the Georgia Classroom and the Digital Learning Plans for Science

For activity ideas to practice these skills, go to gpb.org/learn.

These skills were identified by the Georgia Department of Education's Division of Curriculum and Instruction based on current Georgia standards. We invite you to use this resource to help support your student's learning at home.

Mathematics

- Explores place value Grade 5: Unit 2 - Place Value Structure
- Develops fluency with addition and subtraction of fractions and develops an understanding of the multiplication of fractions and of division Grade 5: Unit 4 - Using Benchmarks to Find Sums and Differences
- Divides numbers with up to a 2-digit divisor Grade 5: Unit 3 - Part-Whole Thinking with Division
- Reasons with operations with decimals to hundredth Grade 5: Unit 6 - Decimal Fractions Addition and Subtraction
- Explores volume concepts Grade 5: Unit 1 - Volume and Expressions
- Graphs points in the first quadrant of the coordinate plane Grade 5: Unit 7 - Points All Around Me
- Analyzes and classifies two-dimensional figures into categories based on their properties Grade 5: Unit 7 - Classifying Shapes
- Builds fractions from unit fractions Grade 5: Unit 4 - Using Equivalent Fractions and Representations to Add and Subtract Fractions with Unlike Denominators
- Understands and interprets data Grade 5: Unit 2 - Measure, Measure!
- Interprets data to answer relevant statistical investigative questions Grade 5: Unit 2 - Measure! Measure!
- Explores units of measurement and convert among units with both the metric and customary systems Grade 5: Unit 1 - How Many Ways

Fine Arts

- Identifies, describes, and critiques each element of art (e.g. line, shape, form, space, color, value, texture) within works of art found at home or in your community and discusses how the elements communicate and convey meaning. Example Activity
- Creates works of art emphasizing multiple elements of art and/or principles of design incorporating imaginative ideas, universal themes, and symbolic images. Example Activity
- Recognizes the unique contributions of contemporary and/or historical art forms, including Georgia artists and explores various career paths in art. Example Activity
- Composes music (with or without text) within an octave scale as well as in simple meter. Example Activity
- Distinguishes between repeating and contrasting sections, phrases, and formal structures in music.

Activity Ideas:

Music: Create a musical jingle(s) for one of your favorite brands that is catchy, both rhythmically and melodically. It should represent the mood and overall "feel" of your favorite brand. Share your jingle(s) for others through a performance of your choice.

Art: Create a menu with illustrations for a restaurant using warm colors and a repeating pattern. Emphasize the element of art shape.

For more activity ideas, visit the Georgia Classroom and the Digital Learning Plans for Fine Arts

Computer Science

- Becomes aware of digital citizenship and is able to describe safe and ethical ways for socializing and learning online Video
- Develops Design Thinking skills such as "how to break a problem down into smaller problems to make it easier to solve", "how to identify important information for solving a problem", and "how to be comfortable making mistakes and learning from them to improve your solutions."Example Activity (p. 4-20)
- Learns about new technologies, such as AI, cloud computing, or FinTech to understand how they impact our world. Example Activity

Activity Idea:

Passwords are a major part of using technology and becoming a digital citizen. In this activity, learn how to create a complex, unique, and protected password. New technologies are being created every day. In this activity, learn how a protected password can help you use these technologies responsibly. Password Protection Activity Guide