

PVSchools Parents' Guide to Student Success: Seventh & Eighth Grades

Helping Your Child Learn at Home

In middle school, your child will apply skills learned in earlier grades, developing both literacy skills across the curriculum as well as math knowledge. A major goal of middle-school education is to make students responsible for their own learning. Adolescents must be active participants in setting academic goals for themselves, deciding how to accomplish these goals, and assessing their achievements.

Key ideas to support your child's learning:

- Know some key benchmarks
- Help your child establish a regular, quiet study time and place.
- Encourage opportunities to read both fiction and informational text.
- Use Infinite Campus to monitor your child's academic progress.
- Stay involved in your child's school by attending teacher conferences and school events.
- Ask open-ended questions regarding class content and assignments.
- Continue to help your child develop organizational skills. Encourage increasing independence in this area.
- Engage your child in making decisions about their priorities and schedule.
- Listen as your child shares his/her experiences and opinions.
- Discuss current events, developing interests, and how what your child is learning in school applies to life outside of the classroom.

Arizona State Standards

The Arizona State Standards were developed in collaboration with teachers, education leaders, and experts to provide a clear and consistent framework to prepare our children for college and the workforce.

The standards:

- are aligned with college and work expectations
- include rigorous content and application of knowledge
- build on strengths and lessons of current state standards
- prepares students to succeed in a global economy and society
- are evidence-based

Key Shifts for Students

English Language Arts (ELA) / Literacy

1. Read more informational text (55%) than fiction.
2. Learn about the world by reading.
3. Read more challenging material closely.
4. Discuss reading using evidence.
5. Write non-fiction using evidence.
6. Increase academic vocabulary.

Mathematics

1. **Focus:** Building on foundational skills that matter most to understanding arithmetic.
2. **Coherence:** Making math make sense by building onto foundational skills from grade to grade.
3. **Rigor:** With equal intensity, apply conceptual understanding, procedural skills, and fluency.

Resources

Arizona Department of Education

<http://www.azed.gov/>

Arizona K-12 Academic Standards

<http://www.azed.gov/standards-practices/>

6-8 ELA & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, & Technical Subjects

<http://www.azed.gov/azccrs/elastandards/ela-and-literacy/>

English Language Learners

<http://www.azed.gov/english-language-learners/>

Common Core State Standards Initiative

<http://www.corestandards.org/>

Parent Roadmaps to Common Core Standards

<http://cgcs.schoolwires.net/domain/36>

National Parent Teacher Association

<http://www.pta.org/>

Expect More Arizona

<http://www.expectmorearizona.org/>

Educational Student Websites

ConnectED: <https://learn.pvschools.net/>

FROST: PVSchools Tutoring, frost@pvschools.net
PVSchools Tutoring, # 602-449-2399

Kahn Academy: <https://www.khanacademy.org/>

IXL: <https://www.ixl.com/>

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English Language Arts / Literacy

A sample of reading standards includes:

Reading Literature

- Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of rhymes and other repetitions of sounds (e.g., alliteration) on a specific verse or stanza of a poem or section of a story or drama.

Reading Informational Text

- Determine two or more central ideas in a text and analyze their development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.
- Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author distinguishes his/ her position from that of others.

Writing

- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.
- Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence

Speaking and Listening

- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions with diverse partners on a variety of topics and issues.

Language

- Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 7 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

Mathematics

A sample of math standards includes:

Ratios and Proportional Relationships

- Analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve real-world math problems

The Number System

- Apply and extend previous understandings of operations with fractions to add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational numbers

Expressions and Equations

- Solve real-life math problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations
- Analyze and solve linear equations and pairs of simultaneous linear equations

Geometry

- Solve real-life math problems involving angle measure, area, surface area, and volume
- Understand and apply the Pythagorean theorem

Statistics and Probability

- Investigate chance processes and develop, use, and evaluate probability models
- Investigate patterns of association in bivariate data

Functions

- Use functions to model relationships between quantities

Science

- Inquiry processes, observations, and hypothesis
- History & Nature of Science
- Science in Personal & Social Perspectives
- Life Science
- Earth & Space Science

Social Studies / History

Seventh grade emphasizes American history from the Civil War through the Great Depression. They also study the impact of the Industrial Revolution and imperialism on world events. Eighth Grade emphasizes the historical foundations and democratic principles that frame our Constitution and democracy. In addition, geography, civics/government, and economics are incorporated in both 7th & 8th grades.

A sample of standards includes:

- Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions
- Identify key steps in a text's description of a process related to history/social studies.

Transitioning to 8th Grade

- Review math skills over the summer.
- Encourage both fiction and informational reading
- Enroll your child in summer enrichment camps such as STEM, Community Ed, ASU, etc.

Transitioning to 9th Grade

- In preparation for high school, develop an academic plan with your child.
- Discuss the course selection and level of academic rigor needed to meet his/her anticipated career goals.
- Make an appointment with your high school's College and Career Center.
- Participate in orientation activities at your high school.