

Mathematics For Families

You Are Your Child's First Teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Washington's academic standards and why they are important to your child. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic success!

7

Seventh Grade

In seventh grade, students spend more time using math to make sense of real-life situations and less time memorizing steps or formulas. Seventh-graders use math tools to explore meaningful situations they might encounter, such as hourly wages or population densities. Students see how math works in the real world and build problem-solving skills they can use beyond the classroom.



Below is a snapshot of what your student will learn in math this year and how you can support them in school and at home.

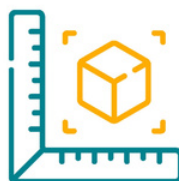
What Seventh-Graders Learn and Do



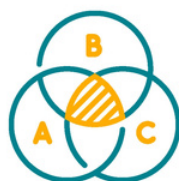
Explore the ideas of chance and probability through real-life situations and outcomes.



Build on what they already know about multiplication, division, and fractions to work with positive and negative numbers (for example, calculate changes in temperature, money gained or lost, or distances above and below sea level).



Solve real-world problems involving shapes and space (for example, finding the area of a room, the volume of a box, or how much wrapping paper is needed to cover a package). Choose the most efficient way to solve each problem.



Write equations in different ways to understand the relationship between numbers and unknowns in those equations.



How to Support Your Seventh-Grader with Math

Do Math at Home

- Discuss how likely an event is to happen in real-life situations such as weather forecasts or sports statistics. Encourage your student to explain their thinking using words like *likely*, *unlikely*, *possible*, or *impossible*.
- Ask your student to make predictions or estimates, such as how long a task will take, whether a sale price seems fair, or which option is the better deal, to build their confidence with reasoning and estimation.
- Cook or bake and discuss volume using cups, tablespoons, or containers.
- Practice multiplication and division using real-life situations like splitting food, money, or time. Encourage your student to make an estimate first, then check whether the final answer makes sense.

Talk with Your Student

- Explain that mistakes are part of learning. Remind your student that revising their thinking is an important part of becoming a stronger problem solver.
- Invite your student to share how they solve problems. Encourage them to ask questions when something is not clear or does not make sense.
- Remind your student that there is often more than one correct way to represent or solve a problem.
- Reward and praise your student for figuring something out (problem solving), even when it does not relate to math.
- Support your student to talk with their teacher if they have questions about math or don't understand something in class. Help them plan out what they will say.
- Check in with your student while they do homework. Ask if they need any support. Encourage them to consider what resources they can use to help themselves.

Partner with the School

- Ask your student's teacher what students are learning in math. Share how it connects to your student's home life, community, culture, and future goals.
- Discuss collaboration with the teacher. Ask how students work with others to support learning.
- Help your student identify their strengths in math and areas where they feel confident. Share this information with the teacher.
- Ask the teacher how they encourage students to explain their thinking, make choices, and learn from mistakes in math class.
- Ask the teacher how students are using their math skills to understand and solve real-world problems.
- If you have questions, or if your student needs extra help or is new to learning English, talk to your student's teacher, multilingual learner specialist, or individualized education program (IEP) team (if applicable).

