

Literacy 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!



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Eighth Grade

In eighth grade, students become proficient, independent consumers and communicators of information. Eighth-graders read and analyze print and digital texts on many topics from different cultures and time periods. They develop an extensive vocabulary that supports clear communication and comprehension in reading, listening, and viewing. Students write in a variety of genres (text formats and styles), making purposeful choices about audience, purpose, and context to communicate effectively.



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

What Eighth-Graders Learn and Do



Analyze diverse texts (such as poetry, drama, fiction, and nonfiction) to deepen their understanding of themselves and the world around them.



Write in various styles by adapting the language and format for different purposes and audiences. Add digital or visual elements, as needed.



Engage in discussions and presentations to more clearly express ideas and actively listen, both in person and online.



Refine language skills to clearly communicate thoughts and ideas and increase comprehension in reading, listening, and viewing.



Research using a variety of sources to evaluate the reliability, purpose, and impact of messages from different types of media.



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

How to Support Your Eighth-Grader with Literacy

Promote Literacy at Home

- Pick an advertising campaign for one of your student's favorite products. Discuss the different ways the company markets the item (social media, commercials, newspaper article). Ask your student to write an ad from a different perspective and share how their approach is unique or similar to the current ads.
- Engage in thoughtful discussions about the TV or movies you watch together.
- When reading or viewing text, commercials, news, movies, TV, and websites, discuss the perspectives of the author and others who might agree or disagree. Ask your student what they think about the author's perspective and to share any additional information they have that supports or contradicts what the author thinks. Encourage your student to question what information may be missing.
- Encourage your student to keep a journal of what they read or their daily reflections.

Talk with Your Student

- Encourage your student to pick a book to read daily for fun. Ask them to summarize what they read and share their opinions and ideas.
- When your student reads a book, ask them what questions they would like to ask the author. Ask your student why they think the author used certain words or character actions and how those choices impact the meaning of the text.
- Find opportunities that fit your family's routines to help your student access books—whether through school, local libraries, digital apps, or shared books within your community.
- Encourage your student to share ideas, questions, and strategies they use in English language arts (ELA) class. Help your student identify their strengths in ELA and areas where they feel confident. Support them to share this information with the teacher.

Partner with the School

- Ask your student's ELA teacher what students are learning in class. Share how it connects to your student's home life, community, and future goals. Ask how you can help your student prepare for the transition to high school.
- Communicate your student's strengths and interests with the teacher. Talk with the teacher about helping your student select high school courses that build on their strengths and interests.
- Ask your student's teacher how you, the teacher, and your student can work together to improve your student's literacy skills. Ask how students work with others to support learning.
- 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).

