



Hello Parents, Welcome to Eighth Grade!



2021-22

Believe it or not, your child is halfway to high school graduation!
Parents have common questions about achievement and instruction as students move up each grade. This guide will point you to answers as you help your student reach graduation!

What is my child learning?

State standards describe what Oregon students should know and be able to do by the end of the school year.

*** The Oregon Department of Education has suspended the Essential Skills graduation requirement until 2024.*

English Language Arts (ELA) | Science

- English Language Arts (ELA)**
(includes reading, writing, language, speaking and listening)
- Quote evidence that most strongly supports what a text is saying both directly and indirectly.
 - Determine a theme or central idea; analyze the development over the course of the text, including its relationship to characters, setting, and plot; provide an objective summary.
 - Write arguments to support claims with logical reasons and credible evidence, acknowledging and distinguishing the claim from alternate or opposing claims.
- Science**
- Plan an investigation to provide evidence that the change in an object's motion depends on the sum of the forces on the object and its mass.
 - Develop & use a model of the earth-sun-moon system to describe the cyclic patterns of lunar phases, eclipses of the sun and moon, and seasons.
 - Develop & use a model to describe why mutations to genes on chromosomes may affect proteins and may result in harmful, beneficial, or neutral effects.
- Study focuses on the foundation of the United States of America and includes the exploration of:
- What are the foundational values of the U.S.?
 - How do values influence society and vice versa?
 - How does the government respond to pressures and shifting values?

Mathematics

- Solve linear equations and pairs of linear equations. For example, $y = 2x - 2$ and $y = -x + 7$.
- Use functions to illustrate relationships between numbers. A function describes what happens to a number (input) to produce an outcome (output). In $f(x) = x^2$, the input is squared to get the output.
- Understand and use the Pythagorean Theorem ($a^2 + b^2 = c^2$).

What does it take to graduate?

***Some students may need extra time or support to achieve high school graduation requirements. Schools are prepared to support students' unique learning needs.*

For information on diploma options, please contact your student's counselor.

It may seem strange to think about high school graduation now. But, middle school is when students begin forming thoughts and feelings about their future after high school. The best way to set your student up to reach graduation is to make sure he or she is regularly attending school and meeting standards every year.

Here are the things graduates need to accomplish in order to receive their diplomas:

- Earned a total of **24 high school credits**.

English, 4 credits	Social Studies, 3 credits	Second Language,
Math, 3 credits	P.E., 1 credit	Arts or Career-Tech, 3 credits
Science, 3 credits	Health, 1 credit	Other electives, 6 credits
- Completed career-planning activities.

How is my child Doing?

Staying engaged in your child's education is critical.

For many students, having their parents be active members in their education can help keep them on track to graduate.

These are a few ways parents can stay involved in knowing how their child is doing in their classes and help their child receive supports needed to succeed.

1

Progress reports

Parents get official reporting on grades every nine weeks. Parents are encouraged to check-in regularly with their child on class progress and parents can access up-to-date grading information through ParentVUE. Final semester grades are sent home at the end of each semester – midyear (late in January) and at the end of the school year (June). Salem-Keizer middle schools currently use a letter grade scale (A to F).

2

Talk with your student's teachers

A conversation with your student's teachers is a great way to find out how he or she is doing. Email is probably the fastest way to get in touch with teachers, but they are also available for phone conversations after school.

Remember—it's important to attend parent-teacher conferences!

Please take advantage of this opportunity to meet one-on-one with your child's teacher.

3

Parentvue

<http://www.salemkeizer.org/parents/parentvue>

Parents can find their student's current grades, class schedule, attendance, and assignment information through this online tool. Attendance information is updated daily. Please contact your school to activate your ParentVUE account.

4

State tests

Every year, Oregon students in grades 3–8 and 11th grade take state tests in reading, writing, math. Grades 5, 8 & 11 also take annual tests in science. The tests measure students' knowledge of state standards and give the Oregon Department of Education feedback about how schools are doing. The state test for English language arts and math is called the Oregon Statewide Assessment. Students take the test in the spring, and results are sent home around the end of summer.

The Oregon Statewide Assessment was first used in our district in 2015. Students will benefit from **encouragement and practice** to help them adjust to the new style of test. After students have had more experience with the test, parents may choose to look at state test results as one way to gauge their student's progress toward mastering state standards.

How can I help at home?

As a parent or guardian, you are the most influential person in your child's future success.

There are many things you can do to help set your student up for success in school and for life after graduation.

HOME COACH:

Tips to prepare your child for graduation at home

- Make education a family value.
- Understand graduation requirements (*reverse side*).
- Talk with your student about going on to college and about different careers.
- Contact your student's counselor to learn about scholarship resources and college application deadlines.
- Have a comfortable place set up at home for schoolwork, and make sure there are enough supplies such as paper and pencils.
- Help your student build and maintain study habits by reviewing homework assignment due dates and schedules. Check your student's planner or agenda every day.
- Know about the academic concepts your child is learning in school (*reverse side*).
- Have a comfortable place set up for homework, and make sure there are enough supplies like paper and pencils.
- Check your student's planner or agenda every day.
- Check your child's online learning platform for homework and messages sent from school.
- Try your best to help your child attend live class sessions and actively participate where possible. Whether in comprehensive distance learning, or learning in-person in a physical school, regular engagement and participation in school is critically important, especially for young learners. Utilize ParentVUE to track student attendance, and encourage active participation in class activities each and every day.

Learn more about how you can support your student through their educational career with **HOME COACH**.

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