

Grades 7 and 8 at Ellis School

Home-School Connection

Young adolescents are amazing people! They are in a developmental change that is the most significant they have experienced since the first two years of their lives. They will change before your eyes! Physically they are growing and changing quickly. They are always hungry and they frequently stay up late and want to stay in bed forever in the morning as their body rhythms develop. Emotionally young adolescents are on a roller coaster of feelings and their mood swings may be abrupt. Friends become extremely important, and this area may provide some challenging moments. It's a good idea not to be too concerned when a lifelong friend becomes an outcast or new best friends occur. Try not to take sides or become entangled in their relationships because it is extremely important to be accepted by peers. You may hear "everyone does it" or "everyone has it" frequently. Academically these students are creative, curious, and seek challenges. They want to be independent, but still require and seek structure from the adults in their lives.

Expectations for Students

1. Be prepared for class
2. Be respectful to others in all situations
3. Be responsible for personal actions and property
4. Become self-advocates

Language Arts

By the end of the school year, your child has learned about:

1. Literary text- Read and recognize key ideas and details, and be able to integrate personal knowledge and ideas
2. Informational text- Read and understand elements of the text and its features, and its differences from literary text
3. Writing-write 5-6 paragraph essays; write a narrative, information and argument essay understanding and applying the 6+1 traits of writing as well as the writing process
4. Speaking and listening- Use speaking and listening to comprehend, collaborate, and present knowledge and ideas.
5. Language conventions-Use the conventions of standard English (spelling, grammar, punctuation)
6. Vocabulary- Acquire and use vocabulary at grade appropriate level.

Suggestion for home activities in language arts

- Read with your child. Create a family reading time where everyone reads and shares information
- Incorporate writing into daily activities such as thank you notes, journaling, blogging.
- Read a variety of texts including stories, magazines, instruction manuals
- Play word games such as Scrabble or Boggle; complete crossword puzzles –have a dictionary handy!
- Go to the theater or attend a play, encourage library visits or access books on-line
- Read recipes, create menus, cook together

Mathematics

In 7th grade mathematics, by the end of the school year your child will:

1. Develop an understanding of and apply proportional relationships, including percent
2. Develop an understanding of operations with rational numbers and work with expressions and linear equations
3. Solve problems involving scale drawings and geometric constructions and work with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume
4. Draw inferences about populations based on samples

In 8th grade mathematics, by the end of the school year your child will:

1. Use and extend properties of the real number system and analyze and represent problems by their quantities
2. Analyze structure in expressions.
3. Synthesize mathematical concepts, properties and skill to create equations
4. Analyze and apply concepts of equations, inequalities and systems to solve real world problems
5. Interpret and build functions
6. Construct and analyze linear models
7. Interpret categorical and quantitative data

Suggestions for home activities in mathematics

- Encourage review of daily lessons
- If possible try to incorporate daily math concepts into everyday activities such as cooking, driving, building things, and basic problem solving.
- Practice math facts orally (in the car, at dinner, while waiting in line, etc.)
- Encourage mental calculations and the use of estimates
- Play math games with your child –hold a Monopoly competition
- Make certain your child understands the various ways you use math at work or in life
- Stress the importance of math, even when it's hard! Encourage a positive attitude towards math

Science Topics

By the end of the school year your child will:

1. Understand science process skills and practices used to learn science such as critical thinking
2. Study physical science topics such as Energy
3. Explore Earth and Space including space travel and the solar system
4. Study geology including the water cycle and climate
5. Explore life science including human development
6. Discover information in chemistry
7. Learn about careers in science

Suggestions for home activities in science

- Use the scientific method to answer questions your child develops
- Go to area museums
- Explore the seacoast; go to Plum Island or Odiorne Point
- Plant a garden; prepare the food you grow in creative recipes
- Play family quiz games – research answers together

Social Studies Topics

By the end of the school year your child will:

1. Read and comprehend non-fiction text and understand its historical, social, and educational impact
2. Draw relevant evidence from multiple sources both print and digital in order to answer questions, and to build and present knowledge
3. Recognize significant events and key figures related to events that influenced the shaping of our country from Pre-Colombian history to the modern era
4. Understand key concepts of historical U.S. documents such as the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution, and the impact they have on our society today
5. Compare and contrast differing historical viewpoints, theories and documentation.

Suggestions for home activities in social studies

- Model good citizenship by taking part in activities such as voting, community events, and volunteer activities
- Point out local historical landmarks when travelling, and encourage research about them.
- Look for differences in regions when travelling; even state to state travel affords the opportunity to point out differences in culture.