

# High Expectations

7th Grade

## Your Seventh Grader's Academic Success Begins with You

Your involvement in your student's academic success, at every stage, opens the door to opportunities and increases their options for the future.

Do you know what your student is expected to learn in school this year? Part of being an engaged parent is knowing about key academic milestones and how you can support your student in meeting them. Here are some of the key academic skills your student will need to master in the seventh grade and ideas for ways you can supplement the learning at home.

### Academic Skills

- Have an increased focus on reading comprehension and vocabulary. Students will be expected to infer from text, interpret the author's ideas and draw from additional sources to reach conclusions.
- Understand the difference between fact and opinion. Explain why facts and opinions can strengthen an author's argument.
- Make independent reading a habit.
- Solve mathematical problems involving angles. Measure surface areas and volume.
- Use random sampling to draw inferences about a population.
- Encourage your student to take Pre-Algebra this year so they are ready for Algebra I in eighth grade. Research shows that students who take Algebra I in eighth grade are more likely to be on track for college and other postsecondary education.

### Activities to do at Home

- Incorporate a "word of the week" activity. Have your student write a new vocabulary word on a notecard and tape it to the refrigerator. Record your student saying it and use it as a cell phone ringtone. Also encourage your student to use the word in conversation.
- To encourage reading, ask your student what he is reading about. Have him re-tell the story in his own words.
- Choose your family's favorite professional sport and have your student develop math problems around that sport. For example, figure out the average number of attendees at each game during the last Diamondbacks season.
- On a sheet of unlined paper, ask your student to make a scale drawing of a soccer field. Include goals, goal area, penalty area, halfway line and kickoff circle. Your student should use the principles of geometry to ensure the drawing is to scale. (This activity can also be done with a football field or baseball diamond.)

## Ways to Create a High Expectations Culture in Your Home

- Make student academic success a family priority. That means school comes before extracurricular and social activities.
- Set completing college or other postsecondary program as the ultimate academic goal for your student.
- Commit to be actively engaged in your child's education at every stage – from birth through postsecondary – and take ownership for being a partner in your student's success.



Note: Every child develops at his/her own pace. These are recommended age specific guidelines for academic skill development.

The above Academic Skills are based on the Common Core Standards. Please talk with your child's teacher to get more specific information about each of these skills. A full list of common core standards by grade level is available at [www.azed.gov](http://www.azed.gov).



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