

*“Each child is unique and develops at their own pace, but there are predictable patterns in child and adolescent development. This guide is intended to help you identify and understand these patterns so that you can better support your child’s learning at home and in school.”*

(Yardsticks/Responsive Classroom, Chip Wood)



**Physical Development:**

- High energy and needs physical exercise
- Generally healthy; wants to be able to participate with peers.
- Girls: full development is nearly complete
- Boys: growth spurt continues; upper body strength begins to develop in boys
- Feel awkward about body
- Worry about being normal

**Social-Emotional/Academic Development:**

- May further develop their personality
- Able to felt on personal decisions and relationships
- Develop new friendships
- Appear to feel secure
- Concerned with others’ opinions
- Don’t always follow through with routines, but recognize that it is important
- Ability to complete long term assignments
- Can think abstractly about concepts

**Throughout the year your grade 8th student will experience...**

**Phys Ed**

- Movement concepts with emphasis on self and spacial awareness
- Underhand and overhand throwing
- Playing cooperative games
- Dancing, choreographed and improvised

**Health**

- Personal wellness and fitness
- Alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs
- Family life and community health skills

**Music**

- Singing songs and playing basic instruments
- Performing songs in front of an audience

**Technology**

- Using academic programs including Google Suite of Apps for Education
- Attend class in the technology lab
- Create a 3D model using digital software
- Program robots to complete a task

**Library**

- Use of the library and library resources
- Using online resources
- Concepts of copyright and fair use
- Website evaluation
- In-text citation

**Social Emotional Learning**

- Participate in Character Education lessons
- Participate in Mindful practices

**World Language**

- Describe self, family and others
- Label rooms in a house
- Discuss chores they and others do
- Revisit food and drink vocabulary

**Art**

- Experimentation with various art media including but not limited to: clay, acrylic paint, drawing materials, charcoal & pastel, and digital platforms

**By the end of Grade 8, your child will know how to...**

**Reading**

- Cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text
- Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text
- Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone
- Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text

***Practice these skills at home ~***

- Build reading stamina with complex texts
- Discuss the texts in terms of character and theme development - go beyond plot

(e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole

- Analyze and reflect on how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take
- Analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts
- Analyze how differences in the points of view of the characters and the audience or reader (e.g., created through the use of dramatic irony) create such effects as suspense or humor

## **Writing**

- Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence
- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through effective selection, organization, and analysis of content
- Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences
- Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism
- Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research
- Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text
- Use appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts
- Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events

## **Social Studies**

- Explain the changes in America's relationships with other nations by analyzing policies, treaties, tariffs, and agreements
- Assess the impact of the Louisiana Purchase and western exploration on the expansion and economic development of the United States
- Map territorial expansion and settlement, as well as the locations of conflicts with and resettlement of Native Americans
- Evaluate the extent to which the leadership and decisions of early administrations of the national government met the goals established in the Preamble of the Constitution

## **Science**

- Develop and use models to show how systems interact. Models could include replicas, diagrams, pictures, and written descriptions.
- Apply scientific ideas or principles to design, build, and test a device that minimizes or maximizes heat transfer.
- Use mathematical models to determine how the

## ***Practice these skills at home ~***

- Have your child be specific when telling a story
- Ask for detailed reasons with "evidence" when your child makes a request

## ***Practice these skills at home ~***

- Discuss how content in class connects the community.
- Demonstrate values of American citizenship through active participation in local and global communities.
- Work together to make informed decisions about local, state, national, and global events based on inquiry and analysis.

## ***Practice these skills at home ~***

- Ask questions and define problems
- Plan and carry out investigations/science experiments together
- Use math vocabulary and logical

amplitude of a wave is related to the energy in a wave.

Compare and contrast analog and digital signals.

- Analyze and interpret data to find patterns in the fossil record that document the existence, diversity, extinction, and change in life forms throughout the history of Earth
- Construct an explanation based on evidence that describes how genetic variations in a population increase some individuals' probability of surviving and reproducing in a specific environment
- Construct an argument supported by evidence for how increases in human population and per-capita consumption of natural resources impact Earth's systems

## **Math**

- Apply the properties of integer exponents to rewrite powers, multiply/divide polynomials, perform operations with scientific notation, and to solve problems involving exponential growth and decay.
- Solve linear equations, simple quadratics, and proportions written in one variable
- Describe, evaluate and compare different types of functions using tables, maps, equations, and graphs
- Prove and apply the Pythagorean Theorem to real-world problems
- Calculate the volume of cylinders, spheres, and cones
- Describe, compare/contrast, and develop models of linear functions represented by tables, graphs, and descriptions
- Write models and solve systems of equations graphically and algebraically
- Solve and graph simple, multi-step, and compound inequalities
- Describe, graph, and solve quadratic functions and apply them to vertical motion problems

reasoning

- Create and use models to show the results of experiments
- Construct explanations and design solutions to problems
- Search for information on interesting topics; determine if the sources are reliable; discuss what you have found together
- Engage in friendly debates using evidence from reliable sources

## ***Practice these skills at home ~***

- Practice speed and fluency with integers, fractions and percents
- Describe how to approach and/or solve a problem that may or may not involve math
- Present complete work that is neat and organized sequentially
- Discover and explore math and problem solving skills in everyday experiences
- Use math and analytical skills through games involving logic, dice, cards, etc.
- Use the full power of a calculator
- Look for and find patterns in the world

## **Recommended Resources:**

- [Yardsticks](#), by Chip Wood
- [www.responsiveclassroom.org](http://www.responsiveclassroom.org)
- [www.childdevelopmentinfo.com](http://www.childdevelopmentinfo.com)

Please visit your child's teacher website for additional resources and information at [www.ctsdnj.org](http://www.ctsdnj.org)