



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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PARENT CURRICULUM GUIDE



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GRADE **7**



How to Use the Parent Curriculum Guide:

This guide gives you the tools you need to support your child at home. In this booklet, you'll find strategies based on the DCPS curriculum to help your child meet his or her learning goals. You'll have a better understanding of what your child is learning in school and how you can further learning at home.

What You Can Do:

You play a very important role in your child's academic performance. Here are some things you can do to support learning at home:

- ▶ Let your child know that education is the foundation for success.
- ▶ Know what your child is expected to learn in the 7th grade.
- ▶ Help your child set high short-term and long-term academic goals.
- ▶ Provide a designated time and location to complete homework.
- ▶ Talk to your child about what is happening in school and constantly monitor progress.
- ▶ Advocate for your child.
- ▶ Share your child's strengths with your child's teacher.

Questions to Ask Your Child's Teacher:

When speaking with your child's teacher about academic progress, here are a few questions you may want to consider asking:





















- ▶ What are the learning goals? Can you show me examples of student work that meets the learning goals?
- ▶ May I see an example of my child's work? How does it or doesn't it meet these learning goals?
- ▶ Is my child at or above grade level, what extra support is available? What can I do at home?
- ▶ What classroom routines do you have that should also be used at home?
- ▶ What kinds of questions could I ask my child on a daily basis about your class?

Talking to Your Child:

Good conversations help our children see that we are interested in their lives. Here are a few conversation starters you may want to consider asking:

- ▶ Tell me about the best part of your day.
- ▶ What was the hardest thing you had to do today?
- ▶ Can you show me something you learned today?
- ▶ What books are you reading in school? Describe your favorite character? Why do you like that character?
- ▶ What do you think you should do more of at school? What do you think you should do less of? Why?

WHAT MY SEVENTH GRADER IS LEARNING

	ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 	MATH 	SCIENCE 	SOCIAL STUDIES 
FALL 	<p>Students explore the power of storytelling in coming of age literature. Students will understand that narratives reveal universal truths about life that provide readers with invaluable opportunities for insightful growth and the development of resilience.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Students discover what it means to be a warrior in their own lives. Real-world warriors make the decision to face these obstacles head on and persevere through challenges in ways that have a lasting positive impact on themselves and others. As they evaluate the accounts presented in each text, students will also be asked to consider the need to become a real-world warrior in their own lives.</p> 	<p>Students will analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve real-world and mathematical problems and apply and extend previous understandings of operations with fractions to add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational numbers.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Students will use properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions and solve real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations.</p> 	<p>Students learn how living things are made of cells and how the body is a system of interacting subsystems.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Students learn how to promote the growth and development of plants and animals.</p> 	<p>How did humans become civilized? Students explore how humans transitioned from a nomadic life to one of complex civilization by analyzing early Mesopotamia, Hammurabi's code, and the Agricultural Revolution.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Where does power come from? Students examine political and social structures in Ancient Egypt and Israel, and learn how societies and religion operate in reciprocal relationships.</p> 
WINTER 	<p>This unit allows students to make connections to issues facing immigrant communities, the refugee crises, race relations, the LGBT rights movement, the rights of women and girls, child labor, and any number of other social justice issues. By the end of this unit, students will see themselves as survivors able to thrive in the face of challenges and adversity and will compose evidence-based writing that focuses on crafting an argument about survival.</p> 	<p>Students will use random sampling to draw inferences about a population, draw informal comparative inferences about two populations, and investigate chance processes and develop, use, and evaluate probability models.</p> 	<p>Students learn about mutations and examine whether or not harmful mutations can be passed on by parents to future offspring.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Students examine how organisms can be bred for specific purposes, and how that process is similar to natural selection.</p> 	<p>Is hierarchy unavoidable? Students consider how geographic conditions contributed to the emergence of civilizations in Ancient India, and compare common characteristics of early Indian societies.</p> <p>...</p> <p>How should a government treat its people? Students will trace the development of civilization in China, focusing on how geographic conditions led to high population density, and ancient Chinese philosophies influenced the government.</p> <p>...</p> <p>What does a historian do? Over the course of the year, students engage in the same process as historians to choose a topic for historical research, learn how to gather sources and evaluate evidence, and share the conclusions of their research.</p> 
SPRING 	<p>This unit will challenge students to explore the concept of heroism from various vantage points. Through a thorough study of fiction and non-fiction texts, students will (1) analyze the hero's journey narrative pattern, (2) discuss how an author's treatment of heroism in literature encourages greater good, and (3) critique the heroic archetype in literature.</p> 	<p>Students will draw, construct, and describe geometrical figures and describe the relationships between them. Students will solve real world and mathematical problems involving angles, area, surface area and volume.</p> 	<p>Students explore how changes in ecosystems affect interacting relationships among organisms in an area.</p> 	<p>How should people treat their government? Students will identify how geography led to the emergence of city-states, then compare the different conceptions of citizenship in the different governments of the city-states of Ancient Greece.</p> <p>...</p> <p>What makes a civilization successful? By exploring the rise and fall of the Roman Empire, students learn that societies go through periods of creation, expansion, and collapse.</p> 

ACTIVITIES TO PRACTICE WITH MY SEVENTH GRADER



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Read together everyday for 20 minutes.

FALL



Visit the National Museum of American History. As you view the exhibitions, ask your child to read the descriptions and explain how the people featured overcame challenging situations.

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Consider asking your child to select a conflict studied in the unit that they would like to learn more about. Visit the local library together and conduct additional research on the conflict. Ask your child to teach you what they have learned.



Discuss the impact of reducing or increasing, recipes on the amount for each ingredient.

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Have your child calculate tax, tip and discount while shopping or going out for food.



Explore the virtual "Life Lab" at the Koshland Science Museum website bit.ly/DCPSLifeLab with your child to explore the science behind aging and learning. This is a great activity to do during or after the 7th grade unit on "Bodies and Systems".



Ask your child why they think the civilizations of early humans are important to understanding our own civilization.

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Discuss the concept of power in other areas of your community or child's lives, and ask your child where they think this kind of power comes from. Compare and contrast with what they learn in school.



Keep a journal recording how much time you spend reading each day! List your favorite characters from each story and identify a place in the story where the character shows a quality that you admire.

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Go to the Hindu American Foundation at bit.ly/DCPSHinduBasics and check "Hinduism's Contribution from Antiquity" How many of these contributions show up in your life today?



WINTER



Consider asking your child to select a conflict studied in the unit that they would like to learn more about. Visit the local library together and conduct additional research on the conflict. Ask your child to teach you what they have learned.



Ask your child to continue visual patterns and to figure out how many objects will be in the 43rd pattern. See if they can create an equation to determine how many objects will be in any step of the pattern. Visit bit.ly/VisualPatterns

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While playing board games, your child can analyze the probability of certain events occurring, such as, rolling an even number, rolling a 2, or spinning a red.



After their unit on Inheritance and Genetic Variation, watch the "Smithsonian Science How" video - Powerful Predators - Adaptations of Trap-Jaw Spiders. Afterwards, take your child to the Smithsonian's Q?rius exhibit at the National Museum of Natural History to learn more. bit.ly/DCPSSpiders

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Visit the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History's many fossil exhibits with your child.



Ask your child to share the questions that they most want to know the answer to.

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Help your child narrow down their project for National History Day by thinking about what kinds of projects they like to do and what interests them.



Visit your local library to checkout three new books! Visit bit.ly/findmylibrary to find your local library branch. Make sure to add the new books you read to your reading journal!



SPRING



Consider having your child research historical neighborhoods in Washington D.C. Have them teach you the neighborhood's historical impact on the city.



Ask your child to analyze the claims in commercials and ads that they see. If an ad proclaims that it is 50% better than the competitor, discuss the types of subjects and sample size that would be fair to use in order to make that claim.



National History Day is a chance for your child to showcase their historical thinking! Support your child by having them present their project to you.

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Ask your child what their definition of a good citizen is, and how they might convince others with different views.

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The SAGE post-test takes place in June! Encourage your child to do their best!



Q?rius is a full, hands-on exhibit, so prepare for you and your child to explore the way real scientists do bit.ly/DCPSQrius!

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Discuss with your child that every ecosystem consists of many interconnected food chains called food webs. Go on a nature walk with your child and identify producers and consumers, and draw your own food chains.



English Language Arts



Math



Science



Social Studies



Enrichment Activity