

Darlington Community School's Parents' Guide to Eighth Grade

Traits Exhibited by Many Twelve- to Fifteen-Year Olds

All children develop differently, but you may notice the following traits as your child attends Sixth, Seventh or Eighth Grades.

- Have a strong drive for conformity with own age group
- Have intense feelings and emotions
- Are influenced greatly by popular adults and teenage idols
- Have rapidly changing interests and ambitions
- Have a long interest span and increasing capacity for self-discipline
- Prefer competition with outside groups over competition with friends
- Have an idealism about the world at large
- Have concern with their personal appearance, self-consciousness and inhibition
- May begin to mature physically
- Boys and girls can work together on projects better than they can socialize

This year your child will learn to:

Art

- Use a variety of materials purposefully and safely
- Understand color, texture, shape, balance, mood, composition, and line as elements of art
- Understand and apply mathematical principles to art (proportion, perspective, scale, geometry, pattern, repetition, measurement)
- Create art from different points of view
- Create art from non-traditional materials
- Appreciate the connection between art and culture
- Express self through art media
- Reflect on works of art in the world today and in history

Language Arts

- Use oral and written language to convey appropriate message
- Listen when others are speaking
- Contribute ideas to discussions
- Analyze text in terms of character, plot, setting, conflict, theme
- Make predictions about a variety of texts
- Read books for information and enjoyment (Tom Sawyer, Outsiders, Hatchet)
- Write a persuasive essay
- Read a variety of genre: mythology, short stories, plays, novels, poetry
- Write an informational researched report with bibliography
- Write well developed paragraphs
- Write stories, personal thoughts, letters, poetry or react to reading
- Know and apply the uses of punctuation
- Apply knowledge of parts of speech, subject-verb agreement, and verb tense
- Recognize that words may have different contextual meanings
- Understand the importance of word choice in conveying a message and relating to an audience
- Spell most words correctly
- Use 6 Traits writing process and assessment
- Increase written and spoken vocabulary
- Use computers to organize and communicate information

Mathematics

- Compare data to generate, test, confirm or deny hypothesis and check validity
- Make appropriate graph or data display
- Use statistical measures of mean, mode, median, range, quartile, and extremes
- Determine sample space probability of an event
- Use problem solving techniques, including writing an equation
- Add, subtract, multiply, divide, solve equations and solve inequalities using positive and negative integers, fractions and decimals
- Graph linear equations and inequalities on a coordinate graph
- Determine slope of a line
- Understand prime numbers, absolute value, opposites, and exponents
- Understand scientific notation and square root
- Understand and use commutative, associative, distributive, and identity properties
- Explain in writing mathematical processes and reasoning.
- Use and understand ratio, proportion, and percent
- Understand and use geometric formulas for Pythagorean theorem, perimeter/circumference, area, surface area, and volume
- Classify and understand the properties of polygons
- Classify and understand the relationships of angles, lines, and rays

- Use a compass and protractor
- Understand the geometric concepts of similarity and congruency
- Understand metric and customary measurements
- Convert from one unit to another in the same system of measurement
- Estimate reasonable measurements

Choral Music

- Sing with proper intonation and breath control
- Identify forms of music
- Sight read simple melodies using note names and solfege
- Write simple melodies
- Apply basic music symbols
- Listen respectfully to others' performances
- Discuss performances using music vocabulary
- Play accompaniments on classroom instruments
- Work for good group singing
- Understand the cultural background of selected songs
- Understand how music contributes to culture today and in history

Instrumental Music

- Demonstrate intermediate instrumental technique
- Use proper breath control
- Read, notate and identify standard notation symbols
- Sight read level 2 melodies in bass or treble clefs
- Play different musical styles
- Compose music using different note values
- Identify and evaluate different styles of music
- Evaluate group and individual performances
- Demonstrate proper audience and performance etiquette

Physical Education/Health

- Use a variety of basic motor movements in flag football, basketball, soccer, softball, volleyball, speedball, weight-training, challenge team-building, and badminton
- Apply rules of flag football, basketball, soccer, softball, volleyball, speedball, weight-training, challenge team-building, and badminton
- Demonstrate eye-hand coordination
- Understand and display sportsmanship
- Use feedback to improve performance
- Manage personal health, wellness, and fitness
- Use decision-making skills for personal and family-related health
- Read and analyze the validity of health information, products, and services
- Compare costs and validity of health products
- Describe situations requiring professional health services
- Analyze media messages for validity and accuracy
- Understand the advancements of technology in family and health areas
- Develop and implement a personal health plan
- Demonstrate healthy ways to express needs, wants, and feelings
- Analyze concepts of conflicts/consequences of drug use
- Understand safety and first aid procedures
- Be able to set goals
- Understand each system of the body
- Learn about health careers
- Understand the social contributions of physical activity (respect, cooperation, teamwork)
- Demonstrate aerobic conditioning
- Engage in activities that develop flexibility, muscular strength and endurance
- Participate in the Presidential Fitness testing program
- Apply safety and warm-up procedures

Science

- Understand that scientific knowledge is always growing
- Learn about famous scientists
- Learn about the classification system of rocks and minerals
- Understand geologic time scale
- Use data and models to understand predictability of volcanoes and earthquakes
- Understand plate tectonics and continental drift and how this theory contributes to other sciences
- Use the metric system for measurement and lab data collection
- Use atomic structure and theory to describe physical and chemical interactions
- Understand geologic time and fossilized evidence
- Understand the rock cycle
- Understand sedimentary processes
- Learn about constellations and the formation of the universe
- Plan and conduct science experiments and communicate results
- Understand how the earth has changed and continues to change (weathering/erosion)
- Create tables and graphs to record and communicate scientific data
- Learn about scientific careers

Social Studies

- Understand that people are alike and different in many ways
- Know the relative location of major rivers, mountains, and cities of the U.S.
- Understand the concept of cultural regions and their influences in the U.S.
- Understand the issues associated with the American Indian tribes and bands in Wisconsin
- Understand the causes of and the results of the Revolutionary, War of 1812, Mexican and Civil Wars
- Understand how settlement spread from east to west
- Know ways that people solve common problems by cooperating and working in groups
- Use maps and globes to locate national and international sites
- Understand the development of Colonial America
- Understand the role technology played in the development of our country

Information and Technology

- Use software to organize thoughts for written work
- Keyboard accurately at 25-30 wpm
- Use scanner, digital camera, and other digital equipment
- Produce word processing document, spreadsheets, databases, PowerPoint, and drawing products
- Use various web browser to modify and focus web searches
- Search using the internet, encyclopedia and other reference materials
- Create bookmarks to find internet sites
- Transfer graphics, pictures, and video clips into student-made documents
- Utilize text editing and formatting pull-down menus
- Incorporate graphics or pictures into a word processing document
- Understand that information is organized in the library in a logical manner
- Choose appropriate library materials
- Care properly for library materials and equipment
- Learn to assess one's own progress and quality of work

Technology Education

- Learn proper and safe use of woodworking tools
- Create a wood project from a pattern
- Apply accurate measuring skills
- Become familiar with CAD (Computer Aided Design)
- Construct robots using LEGO kits
- Work effectively as a group
- Exhibit good decision-making skills
- Understand that technology is constantly changing
- Understand that technology is everywhere
- Review computer application skills

Healthy Living

- Apply accurate measuring skills
- Follow sequential written directions
- Know characteristics of natural and man-made fibers
- Be able to use a sewing machine and basic pattern to construct a project
- Be able to properly care for clothing
- Manage time to organize and complete a plan for finishing a project
- Work cooperatively in a group
- Apply skills to make good consumer choices
- Self-assess products and process
- Identify careers in textiles and clothing

Self-Directed Learning

- Follow school and classroom rules
- Use self-control
- Show respect for others
- Work to solve own problems
- Work cooperatively with others
- Work independently to a greater degree as the school year progresses
- Use time productively
- Make plans and organize before working
- Work quietly when directed
- Complete work in a timely manner
- Evaluate own work

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