



# Literacy

THE KEYS TO SUCCESS

## Tips for Middle School Parents

### Grades 6-8: Reading & Writing



**READING GOAL:** Students become independent and proficient readers able to learn from and think, talk, and write about complex narrative and informational texts.

#### Students Can:

- Read a variety of genres including fiction, informational, poetry and argumentative text.
- Use thinking skills to understand text by determining main ideas and supporting details, summarizing, and using text evidence to support comprehension.
- Use thinking skills to analyze text by using text structures, author's craft and perspective, and close reading to deepen understanding.
- Make connections between texts.

#### How Parents or Caregivers Can Help:

- Read multiple genres over connected subjects with your child and ask questions that assist with deeper thinking by encouraging conversations about the text.
- Ask your child to point out key points, features and structures in the text that assist in deepening comprehension.
- Encourage your child to analyze the author's words and themes to convey their message.
- Ask your child how the text connects to themselves, other text, and the experiences of others around the world.
- Visit museums, theaters and other educational sites to give your child opportunities to research new things.

**WRITING GOAL:** Students will write frequently to different audiences and for different purposes. Students will use writing as a tool through which they learn and also demonstrate their learning across content areas. Writing is in response to and centered on the text. Students use evidence from the text to support their claims and arguments and to reinforce their explanations.

#### Students Can:

- Write in response to what they have read.
- Write with attention to audience and purpose, clear and well-organized arguments that support claims with evidence from texts.
- Write different genres to express thoughts and ideas.
- Research topics and cite evidence from text to support research.
- Plan, revise, edit and publish their writing.
- Appropriately integrate technology to enhance their writing to produce and publish their work.

#### How Parents or Caregivers Can Help:

- Have your child write out responses to questions you ask.
- Model writing about current events and creating fictional stories at home.
- Encourage your child to state their position and use research to formulate a strong argument.
- Encourage your child to draft, write, review, revise, and edit their writing.
- Have your child write in multiple genres to express feelings.
- Visits museums, theaters, and other educational sites and give your child opportunities to write about their experiences.

## Resources

### Useful Websites:

- Council of the Great City Schools Parent Roadmaps | [www.cgcs.org/Page/328](http://www.cgcs.org/Page/328)
- GreatKids Milestones parent-friendly grade level videos | <http://milestones.greatkids.org>
- Parents' Guides to Student Success—National PTA | [www.pta.org/home/family-resources/Parents-Guides-to-Student-Success](http://www.pta.org/home/family-resources/Parents-Guides-to-Student-Success)

### Literary and Informational Texts:

- Goodreads | [www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com)
- ReadWorks | [www.readworks.org](http://www.readworks.org)