

**East Hartford Public Schools
Academic Program for Grade 8**



**Academic Guide for Families
2023-2024**

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East Hartford Public Schools
Schools that are the Pride of our Community

PREFACE

A critical component of a student's success in school is dependent on developing authentic partnerships with parents/guardians. This document serves as a guide for families of East Hartford Public Schools' students who are enrolled in the eighth grade. It contains a collection of materials and resources that will help parents and guardians understand the district's academic program.

The guide contains an overview and a summary of the learning expectations for each of the four major content areas—English Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies and Science. Additionally, it includes hints for parents/guardians who are interested in supporting their child at home by including websites, apps, and questions to ask your child and your child's teachers.

All students enrolled in East Hartford Public Schools receive a comprehensive education that includes world language, physical education and health, the fine and performing arts, and career and technical education. As K-12 programs, the information about these subject areas are included in a separate guide.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The core mission of East Hartford Public Schools is to deliver a high quality learning experience to every child, every day. To this end, the district offers extensive academic programming designed to provide students with the academic, workplace, and citizenship skills that will prepare them for success in college and/or a career. Our core academic program focuses on building a rigorous foundation for students within a supportive learning environment.

East Hartford's curricula have been developed around both state and national standards. In 2010, Connecticut adopted the Common Core State Standards, a progression of learning expectations in mathematics and English/Language Arts. These standards are designed to prepare students for success in college and a career. East Hartford Public Schools has adjusted its curricula to incorporate the Common Core in both English and Mathematics in an effort to improve teaching and learning so that all children will graduate with the skills they need to be successful. The literacy skills articulated in the Common Core have also been incorporated into other academic programs such as the district's Science, Social Studies, World Languages, and Physical Education and Health curricula.

The Common Core State Standards are informed by the highest, most effective models from states across the country as well as from countries around the world. They provide teachers with a common understanding of what students are expected to learn. In each content area students are encouraged to explore, develop key academic skills, and make connections between the disciplines and the world around them. Teachers seek to actively engage students by encouraging them to analyze information, make judgments, and synthesize their knowledge to create innovative solutions to real-world problems.

We encourage parents and families to use this guide in conjunction with resources and information you receive from your child's school and teachers in an effort to enhance your understanding of East Hartford Public Schools' academic program.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

OVERVIEW

Strong reading and writing skills are the cornerstones to student success. All students should master the skills of critical thinking, analytical and technical writing, close reading, and literary analysis prior to high school graduation. To that end, we aim to provide students with a curriculum that allows them to experience a broad range of diverse fiction and non-fiction works, including contemporary and young adult literature, alongside great literary classics.

The Secondary English Department provides a comprehensive program that is designed to meet the rigorous demands of the Common Core State Standards. Courses are sequential, and skills build upon one another over the course of middle school and high school. Success in the early years of the program is crucial to student achievement in the upper-class courses. At the middle school level, requirements for English/Language Arts are dependent upon the reading and writing levels of the individual students. At the high school level, students are required to earn credit in English I, II, III, and IV in order to graduate.

Students who demonstrate success in English courses will generally have better success when moving on to their post-secondary school endeavors. Students find that having a strong background in reading and writing is critical to helping them to achieve their college and career goals. Thus, we encourage students to be lifelong learners.



THE MIDDLE SCHOOL ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS PROGRAM

The middle school English/Language Arts program provides each student with comprehensive instruction in both reading and writing skills. Students enroll in either the honors or general track at EHMS. Each is fully aligned with the Common Core State Standards and provides students with appropriate and rigorous reading, writing, and critical thinking instruction designed to help them reach their fullest potential. In addition, intervention programming is provided to students as needed to help all learners achieve.

In middle school, students engage in Language Arts instruction that aims to promote the critical skills of reading and writing while providing students with opportunities to practice working cooperatively and presenting orally to their peers. Learning experiences focus on critical/close reading of fiction and non-fiction texts, as well as literary analysis and non-fiction writing. Student activities are in alignment with the requirements of the Common Core State Standards and include the following:

- Reading literature and non-fiction works in order to summarize and identify supporting details, determine themes/central ideas, and analyze the components of texts;
- Comparing and contrasting literary and non-fiction works, taking into consideration multimedia approaches to the work as well as historical context;
- Examining the historical perspectives and/or social context of diverse literary and non-fiction text;
- Practicing the skill of close-reading of a text;
- Evaluating arguments within a non-fiction text;
- Writing for a variety of purposes, including to argue, to inform, and to entertain;
- Producing clear and coherent writing that is attentive to audience, grammar, spelling, and punctuation;
- Conducting and assembling research into a written presentation;
- Preparing for and working collaboratively with peers in discussion groups; and
- Presenting orally to groups of peers.

WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL LEARN IN GRADE EIGHT ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS:

In grade eight, students read works of fiction and nonfiction. They continue to learn how to understand what they read and evaluate an author's assumptions and claims. They conduct research that requires the analysis of resources and an accurate interpretation of literary and informational text(s). Activities in these areas include:

- Identifying what a reading selection explicitly says and drawing inferences based on evidence from the text
- Analyzing the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts
- Evaluating the argument and specific claims in a text, and assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient
- Connecting information and ideas efficiently and effectively in writing
- Analyzing the purpose of information presented in diverse media formats, such as video clips or interactive maps
- Participating in class discussions on various topics, texts, and issues by expressing ideas and building on the ideas of others
- Developing a diverse vocabulary of multi-use academic words and phrases
- Interpreting figures of speech, such as metaphors or verbal irony, in context

HELPING YOUR CHILD LEARN OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL:

Independent reading is a required component of 8th-grade English. All students are expected to read at home in order to develop stamina and independence. To support this, provide time and space for your child to read independently for an extended period of time. This time should be free from distractions such as television and other technology. In addition, consider the following:

- Provide time and space for your child to read independently for an extended period of time. This reading time should be free from distractions such as television.

- Ask your child what topics, events, or activities he or she likes. Then look for books, magazines, or other materials about those topics to motivate your child to read.
- Make time for conversation at home. Discuss current events, shared interests, and future aspirations for education and career.
- Visit museums, zoos, theaters, historical sites, aquariums, and other educational places to help increase your child's exposure to new knowledge and vocabulary.
- Share what you have read or are currently reading. It is also helpful when your child sees other people reading at home.
- Use technology to help build your child's interest in reading. Access websites that allow students to read books or articles online. The computer will help with words the student cannot read independently. Libraries also have computers students can use to access those sites.
- Involve your child in authentic opportunities to practice conveying a message through writing (e.g. grocery or shopping lists, chore lists, messages to another family member, written directions or requests, a journal).
- Encourage friends and family to give books or magazine subscriptions as gifts to your child.
- Involve your child in planning and researching authentic family activities (e.g. reading recipes to plan a meal, planning a family trip, planning a home project).
- Use technology to practice communication and writing skills, such as drafting an email to family or friends.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS RESOURCES:

Websites

- www.read.gov Provides a portal to fascinating people, places, and events through the Library of Congress
- www.scholastic.com Offers content and products for children ages 0-13
- www.discoveryeducation.com/parents Offers free educational resources for parents
- www.internet4classrooms.com Offers free resources for teachers, students, and parents
- www.readcentral.com Provides over 10,000 free online books, quotes, and poems
- <https://www.commonlit.org/en/library> Provides students with access to fiction and nonfiction texts of high interest with accompanying questions that align to common core standards for reading & writing
- www.typingweb.com Offers a free online typing tutor for typists of all skill levels
- www.biography.com Enables students to learn about over 25,000 of the greatest lives in the past and present
- www.poetry4kids.com Provides writing resources and links to children's poetry sites on the web
- www.funbrain.com/ Allows students to explore topics in math and reading through videos and games

Apps

- Dictionary.com
- Miss Spell
- Grammar Up!
- Painless Grammar Challenge
- Spell City
- Vocabology
- myHomework
- Grammar Ninja



MATHEMATICS

OVERVIEW

Mathematics serves several important roles in your student's life, both in the present and in the future. First, students can use the mathematics they learn in each year of their K-12 education to analyze and critique ideas, solve problems, and make sense of their worlds. Students should also see the beauty and creativity in mathematics and use it to create, build, and construct new ideas. In addition, mathematics often serves as a gateway to future courses, competitive colleges, and successful careers. Finally, mathematics can help students to develop a growth mindset that promotes positive habits of mind and supports life-long learning

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL MATHEMATICS PROGRAM

The middle school curriculum is supported by Illustrative Mathematics and Desmos. Illustrative Mathematics is a problem-based core curriculum rooted in content and practice standards to foster learning and achievement for all. Desmos is an interactive online platform that allows students to explore and practice mathematics concepts.

Students learn by first being exposed to a mathematical or real-world context. They then explore, experiment, justify their ideas, and compare various approaches to uncover the mathematics and solve the problem. Teachers facilitate and solidify student learning by listening to their ideas, working through their misconceptions, making connections between concepts and procedures, and summarizing the new learning. Lessons are designed with quick transitions between independent, group, and whole-class instruction. This format increases engagement and builds mathematical understanding and fluency for all students.

A major goal of the middle school mathematics curriculum is to develop the habits of mind that will support your student's academic achievement. The Common Core has identified a set of Mathematical Practices including: reasoning with and displaying number sense, construct arguments, attending to precision, and perseverance in problem-solving. These mathematical practices are an integral component of our approach, and are embedded into the instructional routines of the classroom.

WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL LEARN IN GRADE EIGHT MATHEMATICS:

In grade eight, students take their understanding of unit rates and proportional relationships to a new level, connecting these concepts to points on a line and ultimately using them to solve linear equations requiring algebraic reasoning and knowledge of the properties of operations. Students also expand their understanding of numbers beyond rational numbers to include numbers that are irrational—meaning that they cannot be written as a simple fraction, such as the square root of 2. Units of study include:

- UNIT 1: Rigid Transformations and Congruence
- UNIT 2: Dilations, Similarity, and Introducing Slope
- UNIT 3: Linear Relationships
- UNIT 4: Linear Equations and Linear Systems
- UNIT 5: Functions and Volume
- UNIT 6: Associations in Data
- UNIT 7: Exponents and Scientific Notation
- UNIT 8: Pythagorean Theorem and Irrational Numbers

HELPING YOUR CHILD LEARN OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL:

Look for everyday opportunities to have your child do mathematics.

- Encourage your child to stick with it whenever a problem seems difficult. This will help your child see that everyone can learn math. Perseverance is key and will lead to your child's future success in more advanced mathematics classes.
- Praise your child when he or she tries, and share in the excitement when he or she solves a problem or understands something for the first time.

Ask questions when they are struggling.

- Do you have an example like this in your notes?
- What did your teacher say about this assignment? Is there any help posted on-line?
- Can you do some easier problems and go back to this one after?
- Can we draw a picture of the problem? (This works well for word problems.)
- Why don't we take a 10-minute break and come back to this when we aren't so frustrated?

Learn along with them.

- Illustrative Math has created a series of parent newsletters that explain the mathematics students are learning about in class. Navigate through the math resources below or ask your student's math teacher about them.
- Illustrative Math has created a series of videos that summarize the key points students need to know. Navigate through the math resources below or ask your student's math teacher about them.



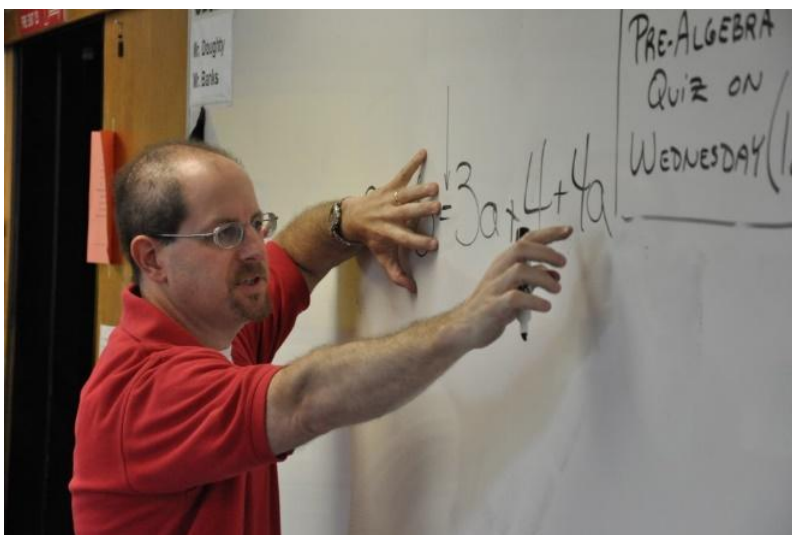
MATH RESOURCES:

Websites

- IM.KendallHunt.com* – IM Kendall Hunt contains all materials from the Illustrative Math core curriculum. Also included in this site are newsletters and videos for parents to use when helping their students.
- Desmos.com* – Desmos includes a four function, scientific, and graphing calculator that students can use for free. It is also used as the embedded calculator on many assessments (e.g. SBAC and SAT).
- Teacher.Desmos.com* - Desmos Classroom Activities combine the power of the Desmos calculator with the innovative lessons from Illustrative Math.

- [iReady.com](https://www.iReady.com)* - iReady is an online program that helps teachers determine your student's needs, personalize their learning through videos and practice, and monitor progress throughout the school year.
- [DeltaMath.com](https://www.deltamath.com)* - DeltaMath allows students to complete digital math practice assignments or test corrections that are assigned by their teacher.
- [IXL.com](https://www.ixl.com) – IXL allows students to practice their math skills and receive instant feedback.
- [KhanAcademy.org](https://www.khanacademy.org) – Contains videos and practice sets for all levels of mathematics, including P/SAT prep.
- [CoreStandards.org](https://www.corestandards.org) – Provides an overview of the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics and the Mathematical Practices.

*Starred resources are used as part of the EHPS core mathematics curriculum



SOCIAL STUDIES

OVERVIEW

Social Studies is the integration of knowledge and human experience for the purpose of citizenship. Students gain knowledge of history, civics and government, geography, and economics; understand the interaction between and among history, the social sciences and humanities and apply that knowledge and understanding as responsible citizens. An effective program develops several important aspects of a child's education including the development of literacy and 21st century skills as well as cultural responsiveness.

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAM

East Hartford Middle School's social studies program is designed to help students acquire logical and critical thinking skills in order to face a future of rapidly increasing change. It is a social studies education, focusing most directly on the learning which young people need for participating in society, which the public welfare requires. All courses include instructional objectives that are theme-based and are aligned with the Connecticut Framework as well as Common Core State Standards. Students consistently practice close reading, writing arguments, and citing evidence from the text. In an effort to better prepare students for the Smarter Balanced Assessment, performance tasks are incorporated into each unit.

The content of all social studies courses is organized according to ten National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies. These themes represent a way of organizing knowledge about the human experience in the world.

- Culture
- Time, Continuity, and Change
- People, Places, and Environments
- Individual Development, and Identity
- Individuals, Groups, and Institutions
- Power, Authority, and Governance
- Production, Distribution, and Consumption
- Science, Technology, and Society
- Global Connections
- Civic Ideals and Practices



Ultimately, the goal of the social studies program for East Hartford Public Schools is to have its students become active participants in the community as critical readers and writers while developing an inquiry based approach for learning.

WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL LEARN IN GRADE EIGHT SOCIAL STUDIES:

In grade eight, students engage in the study of United States History. This course explores the history of America from Colonization through Westward Expansion. Throughout this course, skills relevant to the content area, as well as those found in the Common Core Standards for Literacy in Reading and Writing in History/Social Studies, are developed.

The following units are studies throughout the year:

Unit **One**: Colonization

Unit **Two**: American Revolution

Unit **Three**: Constitution

Unit **Four**: Civil War

Unit **Five**: Westward Expansion

Activities in these areas include:

- Defining basic terms of unit
- Charting the major military battles and identifying central military and political leaders
- Analyzing primary and secondary sources
- Citing textual evidence to support ideas presented orally and in writing
- Comparing and contrasting military strategies employed by colonists (guerrilla warfare) and British (cavalry, artillery, formations, etc.)
- Analyzing primary sources and secondary sources
- Citing textual evidence and composing essays that summarizes the essential political, social and cultural arguments
- Researching and identifying advantages and disadvantages
- Investigating modern-day struggles of a minority group (national, ethnic, racial) on the internet
- Writing a comparative summary that makes connections and draws parallels between past and present
- Debating the nature and evolution of warfare during American history

HELPING YOUR CHILD LEARN OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL:

Look for everyday opportunities to have your child explore concepts related to their learning in social studies.

- Provide time and space for your child to read independently for an extended period of time. This reading time should be free from distractions such as television.
- Make your child aware of current events. Discuss current events and encourage your child to watch the news and/or read the newspaper.
- Visit museums, zoos, theaters, historical sites, aquariums, and other educational places to help increase your child's exposure to new knowledge and vocabulary.
- Encourage your child to read historical fiction or biographies. Read the same book as your child and discuss it.
- Share family traditions, stories, and culture with your child. Encourage your child to interview family members, such as grandparents, to learn family history.
- Ask your child to discuss his or her day. Have your child explain to you or write in an academic journal what he or she learned that day in class.
- Have your child verbally explain his or her project to you or practice a presentation the night before it is due.
- Use real-life opportunities to develop understanding of geography concepts and map skills.
- Encourage service and responsibility. Either through school or as a family, your child can experience providing service to others and/or being a responsible citizen through community giving.

SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES:

Websites:

- <http://www.nypl.org/> Allows students to access research and choose from online databases such as Amazing Animals of the World, Historical Newspapers and a digital archive of historical photographs
- <http://dsc.discovery.com> Provides access to educational videos and interactive websites (i.e. for interactive global warming and weather issues, look at: <http://dsc.discovery.com/tv/project-earth/project-earth.html>)
- <http://www.timeforkids.com> Provides access to digital texts and videos of current news in science, sports, entertainment, and world events
- <http://video.pbs.org/> Features award-winning documentaries, including current episodes from Nova and Nature, as well as archived videos
- <http://www.history.com> Provides video clips and full length shows on history topics from Ancient China to the Vikings to Watergate
- <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/> Offers a wide range of educational digital texts
- <http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/> Provides interactive timelines, images, and articles
- <http://www.tenement.org/> Enables students to download primary sources, including documents and photos
- <http://www.ushmm.org/> Provides an online portal to The United States Memorial Holocaust Museum – one of the greatest and most accessible resources for any study of the Holocaust
- <http://www.nmai.si.edu/> Provides guides for educators on Native American Nations and resources for students on artifacts, history, culture, and everyday life

Apps:

- Atlas for iPad Free - features valuable Information and maps on over 250 world entities.
- European Exploration: The Age of Discovery – Allows students to explore the new world as a European power in the 15th Century by funding and sending expeditions out into the unknown.
- Fotopedia Heritage - Created in cooperation with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Fotopedia Heritage provides a virtual passport to the hundreds of sites that constitute the world's collective cultural and natural human legacy.
- Fotopedia North Korea – This app has more than 1,300 spectacular photos, interactive maps, social media sharing, slideshows, wallpapers, and favorites to easily navigate, bookmark, organize, and share these amazing pictures.
- World Book – This Day in History for iPad - an interactive multimedia calendar that displays historical events for the current day or any selected day, along with related media such as photos, illustrations, music, and speeches.
- The Presidency - an excellent educational reference for easy access to historical information regarding the 44 United States presidents
- Today's Document - Explore American history with 365 of the most fascinating documents and photos from the collections of the US National Archives. Today's Document is an interactive gallery that displays a significant historical document or photo for each day of the year. You can learn what happened on your birthday, search for a document by keyword, or just browse at your leisure.
- US History Timeline (Free) –An application which shows the list of important events from US history. Each event includes a hot-link to the appropriate entry of Wikipedia.
- U.S. Westward Expansion - Explore the westward expansion of United States history in the 1800s as you journey on the Lewis and Clark expedition, match territories acquired by the U.S., and learn about the causes and effects of the westward expansion

Non-Fiction Magazines:

- Zoobooks – Focuses on a specific animal or group of animals, discussing habits and habitat in depth so the reader gains a thorough understanding
- Cobblestone –Highlights a distinct period in US history and explores what it means to be American
- Dig – Explores archaeology with photos and stories from on-site archaeologists
- National Geographic for Kids – Encourages readers to protect the planet’s resources and to learn more about geography, adventure, wildlife, science, and their peers around the world
- Sports Illustrated for Kids – Covers issues, players, and teams, with an emphasis on achievement stories
- Junior Scholastic – Provides coverage of current news issues and investigative journalism
- Upfront –Focuses on investigative journalism for teens

SCIENCE

OVERVIEW

The middle school science program is part of an integrated science program that emphasizes concepts and skills in the areas of life, earth/space, and physical science. In addition to specific content standards, students will demonstrate proficiency in specific expected performances. In addition to science standards, all curriculum documents reflect the Common Core State Standards for English/Language Arts and Mathematics. The scientifically literate middle school student will be able to transfer knowledge of academic theories and principles of science to practical applications in the real world.

The grade eight general science program is fully aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). NGSS instruction promotes analysis and interpretation of data, critical thinking, problem solving and connection-making across science disciplines with a high set of expectations for achievement in grades 6-8. These science standards complement English/Language Arts and mathematics standards, enabling classroom instruction to reflect a clearer picture of the real world where solving problems often requires skill and knowledge from multiple disciplines. These standards are designed to benefit and engage all students. As these standards are implemented, they will enable students to:

- Develop a deeper understanding of science beyond memorizing facts and
- Experience similar scientific and engineering practices as those used by professionals in the field.

The above information can be found in more detail at: <http://tinyurl.com/NGSS6-8ParentGuide>



THE MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE PROGRAM

All students in grades six through eight build a foundation of inquiry skills that also encompass literacy and numeracy. They form and test their own questions, gather and analyze data, and reach their own conclusions about the world around them.

Our goal is to ensure that all students achieve science literacy.

- Science is for all students.
- Science includes the ability to read, write, discuss and present ideas about science to peers and others.
- Science has practical applications in the real world.
- Scientific inquiry reflects how scientists come to understand the natural world and is foundational to how students learn science.
- Learning science is an active process that students do.
- Teachers of science facilitate and guide this process and encourage student learning.

WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL LEARN IN GRADE EIGHT SCIENCE:

In grade eight, students will explore the following questions through a combination of earth/space, physical and life science standards:

- Forces and Energy: How do objects affect other objects?
- Energy in Waves: How do waves transfer energy and information
- Mechanisms of Diversity: What makes organisms different from one another?
- Changing Earth: What has the history of the earth looked like?

Life Science:

- o Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits
- o Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity

Earth and Space Science

- o Earth's Place in the Universe

Physical Science

- o Motion and Stability: Forces and Interactions
- o Energy
- o Waves and Their Applications in Technologies for Information Transfer

Engineering Design

- o Evaluate competing solutions
- o Analyze data from tests in order to better meet criteria for success
- o Use a computer simulation to model the impact of a proposed solution

HELPING YOUR CHILD LEARN OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL:

Look for everyday opportunities to have your child explore scientific concepts.

- Encourage a positive view of science.
- Ask your child questions about what they are doing in science.
- Continue to reinforce that your child should maintain a daily routine for doing homework, studying, eating, and sleeping.
- Provide time and space for your child to study.

- Watch the news on TV together, and discuss articles about natural disasters, advances in medicine, and disease transmission.
- Watch special science-related TV (e.g. Discovery Channel, Animal Planet, The Weather Channel, NASA TV) and video programs together.
- Watch science-fiction disaster movies together and discuss what was based on good science and what was fiction.
- Share newspaper or magazine articles and informational books about topics your child is interested in and/or are studying in school
- Visit local nature centers, museums, planetarium, and science centers.
- Take a family hike outdoors to look for rock formations, semi-precious gemstones, and fossils.
- Provide opportunities to use various tools when you are putting something together, building or fixing things around the home.
- Encourage friends and family to give books or magazine subscriptions to your child as gifts.
- Share and discuss how you solve problems and use measurement in your everyday life, such as when cooking, building, gardening, or caring for a family pet.

SCIENCE RESOURCES:

Websites

- [Smithsonian Education - Students Home Page](#) Creates opportunities for students to explore, discover, and learn about art, culture, history, travel, science and nature
- [Explore NASA STEM](#) Delivers information about the space program, aeronautics and programs for students.
- [How Stuff Works](#) Offers videos and articles on a variety of topics with the underlying concept of how things work
- [Episode Guide - Official Website of Bill Nye The Science Guy](#) Provides an entertaining way of understanding science with Bill Nye
- [Greatest Engineering Achievements of the Twentieth Century](#) How many of the 20th century's greatest engineering achievements will you use today? A car? A computer? Telephone? Explore the list of the top 20 achievements and learn how engineering shaped a century and changed the world.
- [Amusement Park Physics Interactive](#) Explores how the laws of physics play a role in the design of amusement park rides. Design a roller coaster; determine the outcome of bumper car collisions, and more.
- [Project Noah: Citizen Science Platform for Wildlife](#) A tool to explore and document wildlife and a platform to harness the power of citizen scientists everywhere.
- [State of Connecticut Online STEAM](#) portal for women. Information on programs such as internships and camps for girls and women interested in STEAM fields, as well as resources for parents and educators to promote those fields.

Apps

- Globe Observer: Students help scientists understand satellite data collected by NASA from space. [GLOBE Observer Home - GLOBE Observer](#)
- [Seek](#) by iNaturalist: Take your nature knowledge up a notch with Seek! Use the power of image recognition technology to identify the plants and animals all around you. Earn badges for seeing different types of birds, amphibians, plants, and fungi and participate in monthly observation challenges.
- Quizlet: Students can create their own study materials and monitor their progress. [Quizlet: Learning tools & flashcards, for free](#)

- NASA: Students have access to video and image galleries as well as up to date news and information. [NASA App for Smartphones, Tablets and Digital Media Players](#)
- NASA Space Science Investigations: Plant Growth [Apple](#) [Android](#)

Science Experiences

- [Connecticut Science Center - Downtown Hartford, CT](#) Connecticut Science Center – 250 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, Phone: 860.724.3623
- [About the Roaring Brook Nature Center](#) The Roaring Brook Nature Center, 70 Gracey Road, Canton, Phone 860.393.0263
- [Friends of Hammonasset Beach State Park - Madison, CT](#) Meig’s Point Nature Center, Hammonasset State Park, 1288 Boston Post Road, Madison, Phone: 203.245.8743
- www.pequotmuseum.org Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, 1110 Pequot Trail, Mashantucket, Phone: 860.396.6839
- [Mystic Aquarium | Connecticut's Premier Aquarium](#) Mystic Aquarium & Institute for Exploration, 55 Coogan Boulevard, Mystic, Phone: 860.572.5955
- [Maritime Aquarium | Norwalk, CT Aquarium](#) The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk, 10 North Water Street, Norwalk, Phone 203.852.0700
- [Dinosaur State Park home page](#) Dinosaur State Park, 400 West Street, Rocky Hill, Phone: 860.529.8423

PARTNERING IN YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION

You are an important part of your child's education. Research has consistently shown that parental involvement in children's education from an early age has a significant effect on educational achievement and continues to do so into adolescence and adulthood. East Hartford Public Schools encourages all parents and guardians to be active partners with the members of the school district.

Ask the teacher questions like:

- Is my child at the level where he/she should be at this point of the school year?
- Can I see a sample of my child's work?
- Where is my child excelling? How can I support this?
- What do you think is giving my child the most trouble? How can I help my child improve in this area?
- What can I do at home to make sure that my child is successful?
- What can I do to help my child with upcoming work?

Ask your child questions like:

- Did you talk about anything you read in class today? Did you use evidence when you talk about what you read?
- Did you learn any new words in class today? What do they mean? How do you spell them?
- What math problems did you do today? How did you get your answer?
- Tell me something you learned in your reading. How did you learn it?
- How did you use math today? Can you show me an example?

What should you see in your child's backpack?

- Real-world examples that makes what students learn in English and math make more sense
- Books that are both fiction and non-fiction
- Writing assignments that require students to use evidence instead of opinion
- Math homework that asks students to use different methods to solve the same problem
- Math homework that asks students to explain HOW they got their answer

EAST HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Academic Program Contacts

Thomas Anderson, Superintendent of Schools

Anne Marie Mancini, Deputy Superintendent

Anthony Menard, Principal, East Hartford Middle School

Anna Capobianco, Department Supervisor, English Language Arts

Robert Janes, Department Supervisor, Mathematics

Edward Quick, Department Supervisor, Social Studies

Melissa Gavarrino, Department Supervisor, Science

