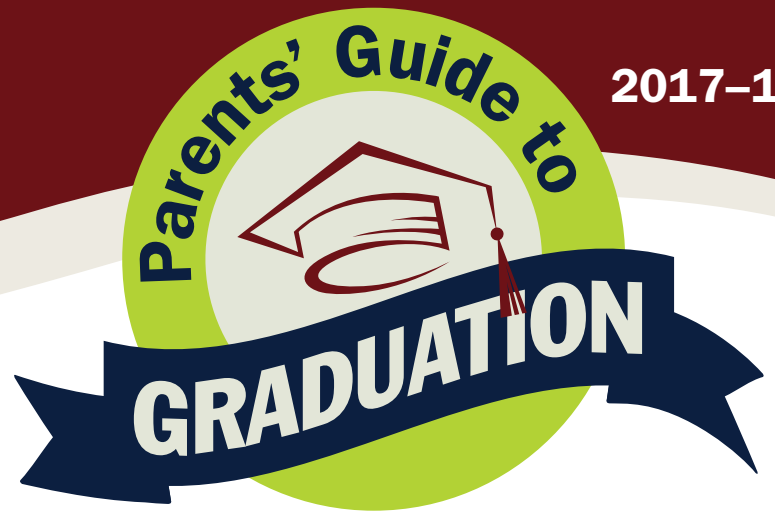


2017-18



Hello Parents,
Welcome to

Sixth Grade!

Believe it or not, your student is almost halfway to high school graduation

Parents have common questions about achievement and instruction as students move up each grade. This guide will point you to answers as you help your student reach graduation!

Learn more at www.skgradguide.com

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WHAT IS MY CHILD LEARNING?

State standards describe what Oregon **students should know and be able to do by the end of the school year.**

Following are a few examples of state standards for SIXTH GRADE students:

English Language Arts

(includes reading, writing, language, speaking and listening)

- Quote evidence that supports what the student thinks a text is saying both directly and indirectly.
- Determine a theme or central idea by particular details and provide an objective summary.
- Write arguments to support opinions and include clear reasons and evidence.

Math

- Understand ratio concepts and use that understanding to solve math problems.
- Develop an understanding of how math phrases can be written as algebraic expressions. For example, "A number plus one equals five," becomes, " $X + 1 = 5$."
- Solve real-world math problems involving area, surface area, and volume.

Science

- Study the relationship between temperature and the energy of a system.
- Describe the water cycle, including the effects of the sun and gravity.
- Provide evidence that living things are made of cells: either one cell or many different numbers and types of cells.

Social Sciences

- Study the Inuit, early Native cultures of North America, and major European explorers and colonizers, and describe the time in history.
- Study the Inca, Maya and Aztec civilizations, and describe the time in history.
- Describe the rise and decline of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece and Rome.

There are also standards for physical education, health education, art, English language acquisition (for English language learners) and others.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO GRADUATE?

It may seem strange to think about high school graduation now. But, middle school is when students begin forming thoughts and feelings about their future after high school and in adulthood.

The best way to set your student up to reach graduation is to make sure he or she is regularly attending school and meeting standards every year.



Here are the things members of the class of 2017 accomplished in order to receive their diplomas:

1. Earned a total of 24 high school credits in the classes shown here. One credit = one full year of a class (2 semesters) with a passing grade.

English, 4 credits

Social Studies, 3 credits

Second Language,

Math, 3 credits

P.E., 1 credit

Arts or Career-Tech, 3 credits

Science, 3 credits

Health, 1 credit

Other Electives, 6 credits

2. Demonstrated they have "essential skills" by reaching a set score on state tests or other approved tests (such as PSAT, SAT, ACT or WorkKeys), or by providing work samples.

3. Completed career planning activities.

Learn more about high school graduation requirements at www.skgradguide.com

HOW IS MY CHILD DOING?



Four ways to find out:

1 Progress reports

Parents of middle school students will receive a progress report every six weeks. Final semester grades are sent home at the end of each semester – midyear (late in January) and at the end of the school year (June). Salem-Keizer middle schools currently use a letter grade scale (A to F).

2 State tests

Every year, Oregon students in grades 3–8 and grade 11 take state tests in reading, writing, math and science. The tests measure students' knowledge of state standards, and give the Oregon Department of Education feedback about how schools are doing.

The state test for English language arts and math is called the Smarter Balanced Assessment. Students take the test in the spring, and results are sent home around the end of summer.

The Smarter Balanced Assessment was first used in our district in 2015, so it is still relatively new. Students will benefit from **encouragement and practice** to help them adjust to the new style of test.

After students have had more experience with the test, parents may choose to look at state test results as one way to gauge their student's progress toward mastering state standards.

3 Talk with teachers

A conversation with your student's teachers is a great way to find out how he or she is doing. Email is probably the fastest way to get in touch with teachers, but they are also available for phone conversations after school. Remember - it's important to **attend parent-teacher conferences**. Please take advantage of this opportunity to meet with teachers in person. Parents are also always welcome to visit the school, and to become a volunteer.

4 ParentVUE

<http://www.salemkeizer.org/parents/parentvue>

Parents can find their student's current grades, class schedule, attendance, and assignment information through this online tool. Attendance information is updated daily. Please contact your school to activate your ParentVUE account.



www.skgradguide.com

HOW CAN I HELP AT HOME?

As a parent or guardian of a student, **you are the most influential person in your child's future success.**

There are many things you can do to help set your student up for success in school and for life after graduation. Here are a few:

- Make regular school attendance a priority.
- Know about the academic concepts your child is learning in school (see page 2).
- Have a comfortable place set up for homework, and make sure there are enough supplies, like paper and pencils.
- Encourage your student to read every day.
- Encourage writing at home. Write together, and include details.
- Talk with your student about going to college and about different careers.
- Help your student build study habits by reviewing due dates for homework and project schedules. **Check your student's planner or agenda every day.**

Find tips and skill-building exercises at
www.skgradguide.com

2017–18 DATES TO REMEMBER (Middle School)

First day of school, grade 6	Sept. 5
First day of school, grades 7 and 8	Sept. 6
Grading and staff development day	Oct. 12*
Statewide inservice day	Oct. 13*
Veteran's Day holiday	Nov. 10*
Grading and staff development day	Nov. 20*
All day conferences	Nov. 21*
No school	Nov. 22*
Thanksgiving holiday	Nov. 23*, 24*
Winter Break	Dec. 18*–29*
New Year's Day holiday	Jan. 1*
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday	Jan. 15*
Grading day	Jan. 26*
Presidents Day holiday	Feb. 19*
Grading and staff development day	Mar. 9*
All day conferences	Mar. 22*
No school	Mar. 23*
Spring Break	Mar. 26*–30*
Grading and staff development day	Apr. 27*
Memorial Day holiday	May 28*
Last day of school (subject to change if inclement weather or other closure)	June 14

* No school for all secondary grades

Calendars may change. Confirm closure dates with your school.

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