

Grade 8 – Understanding Your Child’s Performance: Below is a summary of skills and knowledge students must demonstrate to achieve each performance level. A student should demonstrate mastery of knowledge and skills within his/her achievement level *as well as* all content and skills that precede it. For example, a Proficient Learner should also possess the knowledge and skills of a Developing Learner *and* a Beginning Learner.

	Beginning Learner	Developing Learner	Proficient Learner	Distinguished Learner
English Language Arts	<p>In general, your child can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify a theme or central idea and provide a summary of below-grade-level text • write basic arguments to support a claim • write basic informational texts to examine a topic and convey information • write simple narratives with vague details • conduct short research projects to answer a question 	<p>In general, your child can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attempt to follow the development of a theme or central idea and provide an objective summary of near-grade-level text • write general arguments to support a claim with reasons and evidence • write general informational texts with relevant facts and examples • write narratives with simple events and limited details • generate additional questions to investigate while conducting short research projects 	<p>In general, your child can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • determine a theme or central idea in complex, grade-level text and analyze its development • write arguments and address counterclaims, using clear reasons and relevant evidence • write informational texts with analysis of relevant facts and examples • write structured narratives with descriptive details and well-structured event sequences • generate additional questions to investigate while conducting short research projects 	<p>In general, your child can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assess the strength of ideas that support the central idea and provide a thorough summary of complex, above-grade-level text • write conclusive arguments and address counterclaims with facts and reasoned arguments • write precise, well-developed informational texts with analysis of relevant facts and examples • write descriptive narratives with well-chosen details and precise language • conduct sustained research projects to answer questions or solve problems
Mathematics	<p>In general, your child can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recognize irrational numbers • calculate with a negative-whole-number exponent • represent multiples of ten in scientific notation • identify equivalent ratios • distinguish between relations that are/are not functions • distinguish between congruent and similar figures • recognize single translations, reflections, rotations, and dilations • find the hypotenuse of a right triangle • recognize associations between two sets of data 	<p>In general, your child can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approximate irrational numbers to the nearest whole • express numbers in scientific notation • find the slope of a line • solve simple equations with two variables • identify and define linear functions and use them to model relationships • recognize similarity and congruence and identify a series of transformations • apply Pythagorean Theorem in 2-D figures • describe associations between two sets of data 	<p>In general, your child can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interpret irrational numbers • apply properties of integer exponents and scientific notation • solve linear equations and systems of equations • determine the meaning of the slope of a line • solve linear equation word problems with two variables • evaluate and compare functions • describe a sequence of transformations • apply Pythagorean Theorem and its converse in 2-D figures • find the volume of 3-D figures • investigate associations between two sets of data 	<p>In general, your child can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approximate irrational numbers • interpret properties of integer exponents and scientific notation • solve complex, multistep word problems with systems of linear equations • model relationships using functions • apply Pythagorean Theorem in 3-D figures • analyze congruency and similarity • find volume in real-world problems • analyze patterns of association between two sets of data

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Social Studies	<p>In general, your child can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify significant social, economic, and political developments in Georgia history • locate some important physical features of Georgia • identify some key people and events in Georgia's history • identify the three branches of state or local government under the Georgia constitution • identify some rights of Georgia's juvenile offenders 	<p>In general, your child can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describe significant social, economic, and political developments in Georgia history • locate important physical features of Georgia and identify their impact • describe some key people and events in Georgia's history • describe the three branches of state or local government under the Georgia constitution • identify the rights of Georgia's juvenile offenders and describe consequences for behavior 	<p>In general, your child can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explain significant social, economic, and political developments in Georgia history • describe the impact of important physical features of Georgia • explain the role of key people and events in Georgia's history • explain the organization of state and local governments and the rights and roles of Georgia citizens • describe the rights of Georgia's juvenile offenders and explain consequences for behavior 	<p>In general, your child can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • draw connections between significant social, economic, and political developments in Georgia history • analyze the impact of important physical features of Georgia • analyze the role of key people and events in Georgia's history • evaluate and analyze the organization of state and local governments and the rights and roles of Georgia citizens • explain and analyze the rights of Georgia's juvenile offenders and consequences for behavior
Science	<p>In general, your child can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify solids, liquids, and gases • recognize that elements have different properties • recognize different forms of energy • identify different parts of a wave • identify the effects of gravity on objects on Earth • recognize the effect magnets have on each other and other objects • recognize the effect magnets have on each other and other objects • use data to create a simple graph, chart, table, or diagram • recognize safety precautions during scientific investigations 	<p>In general, your child can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify an atom and a molecule • identify particle arrangements for each phase of matter • explain what a physical and chemical property is • recognize that some elements have similar properties • identify the Law of Conservation of Matter • identify the characteristics of different forms of energy • identify properties of sound and light waves • identify types of wave behavior • describe velocity and acceleration • use appropriate tools in scientific investigations • identify scientific information given in graphs and diagrams 	<p>In general, your child can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describe the movement of particles in different states of matter • distinguish between physical and chemical properties of matter • use the Periodic Table of Elements to predict properties of elements • demonstrate the Law of Conservation of Matter • identify similarities and differences between electromagnetic and mechanical waves • describe the characteristics and behaviors of waves • compare different forms of energy • recognize that every object exerts gravitational force on other objects • evaluate a scientific claim 	<p>In general, your child can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describe the difference between pure substances and mixtures • explain energy transformations in terms of the Law of Conservation of Energy • explain the relationship between potential and kinetic energy • describe how light waves are manipulated, causing reflection, refraction, diffraction, and absorption • evaluate claims based on scientific observations • provide alternate explanations for a scientific observation