

A parent's  
pocket guide.

math + science = success<sup>sm</sup>

# Help your kid go places.



In today's high-tech world, math and science matter. Whatever your child wants to do, whether it's joining the military, joining the workforce, or going to college, he or she will need these skills. So don't let your child get left behind. As a parent, you have the power to make all the difference. For tips on how, just look inside.

## 6 GRADE

- + Make sure your child has a basic scientific calculator.
- + Incorporate math and science into afternoon and evening activities: watch the Weather Channel, read science fiction, give your child a budget to work with, etc.
- + Your child will be studying things like energy, weather, probability, and fractions. Talk to him or her about what's going on in class. Even better, have your child teach you.
- + Ask your child's teacher for an assignment list, so you're informed about homework, tests, and projects.

## 7 GRADE

- + Have a realistic discussion with your child about his or her interests. Start discussing possible careers and what kind of preparation they require.
- + Talk to teachers about whether or not your child is performing at grade level. This is important, because if your child is *not* performing "at level" in science and math, now's the time to get some extra help.
- + Ask teachers about the CRCT (Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests), which your child will have to pass in order to be promoted to the 9th grade. Make sure your child is up to speed on the science and math areas that will be covered.
- + Help your child create an account on [www.GAcollge411.org](http://www.GAcollge411.org). In addition to providing basic information about tests and scholarships, this website also tracks grades and provides a roadmap for taking the right high school courses.

## 8 GRADE

- + It's decision time! Believe it or not, as of 8th grade you and your child will need to start thinking about post-secondary plans. Have another realistic conversation about interests and goals.
- + Start focusing on grade point average. If your child has a specific career in mind, make sure he or she is taking the necessary math and science courses.
- + Encourage your child to get involved in math- and science-related extracurricular activities, like Math Club (and to not just enroll, but be a leader).
- + Keep talking to teachers, and to your child. Stress the importance of taking as much math and science as possible in high school.

## 9 GRADE

- + Familiarize yourself with the EOCT (End-Of-Course Tests), and find out what your child needs to do well in math and science. Ask teachers about the best way to prepare for these tests. (The EOCT counts for 15% of your child's grade!)
- + Make sure your child has a quiet, comfortable workspace at home. Before tests, make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and eats a good breakfast.
- + Have contact with ALL your child's teachers. Make sure you get a transcript at the end of each semester so you can keep track of courses and grade point average. If possible, log on to your school's website to check grades during the semester. (Contact your school for the code.)
- + Pay attention to attendance. In ninth grade, it really starts to count.

# 10

## GRADE

- + In 10th grade your child will take the PSAT, which is a warm-up for the SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test). The SAT is a standardized test that's a major factor in college admissions. The PSAT is free, and good scores could count for scholarship money.
- + Use PSAT results as an indicator of potential weakness. Ask teachers about how to improve math and science scores before the SAT (or ACT, another testing option).
- + Most technical colleges require a "pencil and paper" math test, so make sure your child's basic math skills stay fresh.
- + If appropriate, start researching college and scholarship options. (Your school counselor can help with both.) Check math and science admission requirements for your top-choice colleges.
- + Keep talking to teachers. Make sure your child keeps all options open!

# 11

## GRADE

- + Talk to teachers about the GHSGT (Georgia High School Graduation Test), which your child must pass in order to graduate. The science section of the GHSGT is the toughest, so ask your school about the best way to prepare.
- + Make sure your child gets to school every single day. At this stage, math and science are more complicated, and it's easier to fall behind.
- + If your child is headed to a four-year college, ask school counselors about Advanced Placement courses versus dual-enrollment programs. Both give college credit, but one option may be more appropriate than the other.
- + Students going to four-year colleges should prepare for the SAT (or ACT) in the spring. This is also the time to register for Advanced Placement exams and visit colleges.

# 12

## GRADE

- + Remind your child that senior year really does matter! No matter what your child's plans, encourage him or her to keep taking challenging math and science courses.
- + Finalize post-secondary plans (four-year college, technical college, career, or armed services).
- + If appropriate, prepare to take the fall SAT. This is also when you and your child will send out college applications and apply for scholarships.
- + Tell your child, "I'm proud of you." And give yourself a big pat on the back.



As a parent, the most important thing to remember is this: Your main job is to stay informed and stay involved. It doesn't matter if you can't help your child with math and science homework – what matters is that you help them *get* help. All it takes is a call to a teacher, a counselor, or the school's main office.

Your children listen to you more than you know – so make sure you get heard. For tips on how to multiply your kid's opportunities, just go to our website:

MATHSCIENCESSUCCESS.ORG

**Georgia's Partnership for Reform in Science and Mathematics Initiative**

Supported by the National Science Foundation under Cooperative Agreement Number: EHR-0314953.  
Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this guide are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.