During the 6th-8th grade years, children:

- Desire more independence
- Express feelings easily
- Like to explore, but are not ready for planning
- Are striving to develop their identities apart from their parents'/guardians'

**Additional skills needed for college and career readiness include:**

Meeting grade-level standards in core classes: This is the biggest predictor of success in high school and post-secondary, as students who are struggling in 8th grade core classes have a difficult time meeting standards in high school.

- **School attendance** is a strong indicator of success in high school and beyond. Work with your student to attend school and all classes consistently and on time.
- Have your student get involved in **clubs, leadership, athletics, etc.** so that they become more involved in their school community.
- Teach your student how to ask for help when needed, especially from their teachers.
- Participate in **after-school and enrichment programs** that offer tutoring and/or additional hands-on learning opportunities.
- Celebrate your student's success with positive incentives.

**You can support College and Career Readiness by...**

- Encouraging and reinforcing positive work habits
- Having high educational expectations
- Consistently communicating the value of a college education
- Helping your student study for tests and quizzes
- Avoiding stereotyping occupations
- Taking your student to work
- Visiting different workplaces
- Volunteering with your student
- Exploring how personal interests are related to particular careers and majors
- Utilizing career resources to research occupations and majors—Internet, library, etc.
- Checking in regularly with your student's counselor(s) and teacher(s)
- Limiting TV/computer time
- Assigning age appropriate chores
- Participating in school-related events, such as Back to School Night, Parent Teacher Conferences, PTA meetings, etc.
- Visiting college campuses
- Having your student open and use a savings account

**Time Management and Personal Responsibility:** Students have the ability to effectively manage their time and plan for projects and commitments.

- Set goals with your student, helping them stay motivated and focused.
- Help your student plan their assignments and projects.
- Check in regularly about schoolwork, keeping up with their tests, grades, and assignments.
- Develop and maintain organizational skills (with a binder, for example).
- Dedicate a specific space in the home for work and study.

**Opportunities for Growth and Development:** Students demonstrate confidence and are willing to take risks.

- Encourage your student to participate in all field trips and school excursions, whether or not they think it will interest them. How will they know if they never try?
- Have your student volunteer in the community to foster social responsibility and transferable (job) skills.