

## Parents of Students Grades 5-8

*This school year West Virginia added world-class rigor to traditional core subjects and aligned state standards with national and international tests. We call it Global 21.*

### Why is public education changing?

- Eighty percent of jobs that your children will hold do not even exist yet. That is why it is important to teach them the same skills that children across the world are learning.
- Children need core subjects like math, science, social studies and English, but they also need to know how to work in teams, how to problem solve, and to understand other languages and cultures.
- Students need to
  - be taught how to find solutions to problems on their own;
  - use technology at home and in school;
  - know how to use money to make good purchases;
  - develop good health habits as responsible citizens of the world;
  - be able to do well on state, national and international tests.

### In the 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environment, students in fifth through eighth grade will

- use computers, technology, digital tools and other resources to learn, organize and apply knowledge;
- learn a second language;
- work in pairs or teams to complete assignments and projects;
- understand and appreciate differences around the globe;
- be able to read printed material and information on the Internet and decide if it is true and valuable;
- be able to monitor their own progress in all classes they take;
- be able to think about knowledge and skills they need for their future.

### What can I do to help my student?

- Encourage your child to read no fewer than 25 books a year. Keep a checklist visible.
- Discuss with your child taking a higher level math class.
- Model acceptance of others.
- Volunteer in your community as a family.
- Visit your child's school and discuss how to encourage your student to think about future goals.
- Share your experience and expertise with your child's school.
- Review the West Virginia Content Standards and Objectives at: <http://wvde.state.wv.us/teach21/>.
- Learn more about 21<sup>st</sup> century learning at: <http://wvde.state.wv.us/21stparents/hs.html>.

