

BE READY TO ACE YOUR HOMEWORK

Homework - exercise for the mind! Your fourth graders will have homework every night. I try to alleviate the workload on the weekends - asking for just reading and family time. Expected homework time - should not be more than 40 minutes on a daily basis.

- Reading = should be about 15-20 min per day
- Math = 10 min per day
- HF word Spelling/Math facts = 10-15 min/day

I want to be your partner in helping your child to be a successful learner and in preparing him/her for success. Please help in the following ways:

1. **Use the assignment notebook (ANB) as a daily check list** - check off any assignments that get completed, so there is a nice visual of what is still due. You can even use a highlighter to help things stand out.
2. **Prioritize assignments daily** (from the ANB)- what is due TOMORROW? What is due next week? What might be a "long-term" assignment that needs attention daily, but won't be completed quickly? Use the monthly calendar in the ANB to write in some due dates for these - along with personal commitments like extracurricular activities. What night(s) do you have soccer, piano, or choir?
3. **Check out our classroom website often** - find the most recent newsletter (usually describes units of study and long-term assignments in detail). Also contains papers and schedules that may not have come home.
4. **Encourage good habits** - designate a special place (and maybe even a special time) for homework (away from distractions). Designate a place to keep/put ongoing assignments such as the DEAR contract. Help your child to remember to place completed assignments in his/her binder/backpack each evening before retiring for a good night's rest.

HOMWORK SCHEDULE

READING

- DEAR contract - handed out Friday, due the following Friday
- Group Reading - typically, students will meet in reading groups twice per week. They will receive both a reading and a writing assignment to work on in class when they are not in groups. *If students are using their time productively in class this should not be homework.*

MATH

- Classwork - daily (M-Th) homework, assigned by your child's math teacher
- MathQuest - problem-solving practice; handed out on Friday, due the following Wednesday.

SPELLING/LANGUAGE MECHANICS

- Weekly spelling assignments will vary, depending on the program your child is placed into - usually two or three activities, passed out Mon - Thurs, are due one to two days later. *Class time is given to complete these.*
- Monthly individualized list of high frequency words. Individual words go home in Friday folders once a month. It is best to practice these every other night until these words are automatic and can be spelled on paper so they can be used in writing. Words will be checked at school for retention. Review of past words/lists is also important.

WRITING

- Daily Language Instruction - We call this DLI. *Class time is given to complete these.*
- Writing - most is completed in class. *Should not be homework.*

SCIENCE or SOCIAL STUDIES

- Usually completed in class, unless an activity warrants work at home (such as logging the moon phases), or writing a response to a focus question/essential learning.

ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENTS

Throughout the year your child will be given various **long-range projects** to complete. Some of these will need to be worked on at home. Details about these projects will always be given well in advance of any due dates. A rubric will be given to students to know what is expected, and it will also be posted to the website. In addition, any **assignments that are not completed by an assigned due date** will be expected to come home as homework. These should be few, if any!

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

If your child seems to have an overabundance of homework, this may be something we want to discuss together in a conference. Ample time will always be given in class for most assignments, so as not to overwhelm a child at home. Please alert me to any concerns or problems that arise regarding the level of work coming home for completion. We can brainstorm together what we think is the source of the problem, and if needed, we can make adjustments or modifications to your child's assignments. Homework is meant to practice and to enrich the learning that is taking place at school - it is not meant to make them feel buried in work!

NOTE: Please help **emphasize the importance of organization and responsibility** in fourth grade. It will only help to benefit your child in the future.

**TO BE GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY IS TO KNOW YOU ARE
THOUGHT OF AS CAPABLE AND OTHERS BELIEVE IN YOU!**