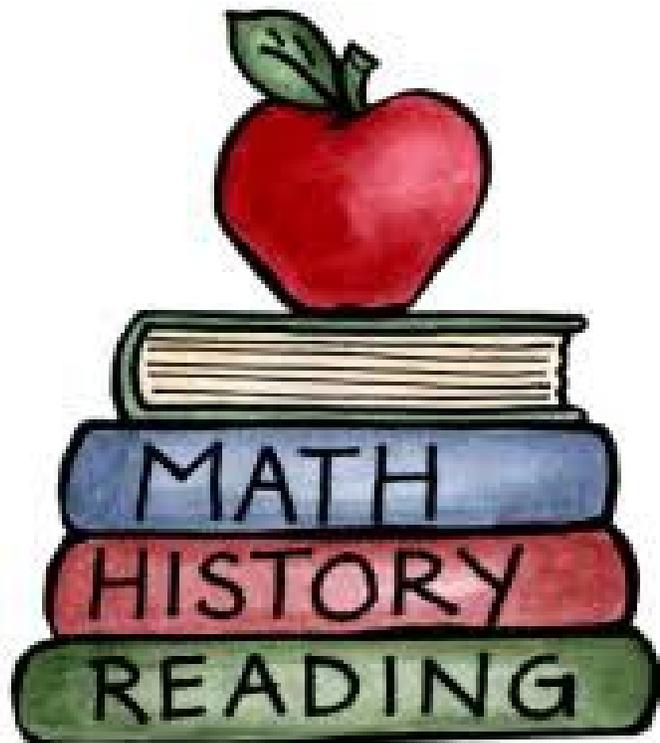


# Homework Handbook

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We have created this Homework Handbook so that families know what to anticipate in each grade when it comes to homework. We also want to share our thinking about the purposes of homework, and what families might do to extend activities beyond school. There is a wealth of research now on the best uses of homework and what is developmentally appropriate for each age group.

Parents and teachers value homework for a variety of reasons, including the following:

- Homework improves thinking and memory
- Homework helps develop positive study skills and habits that will serve students well throughout life
- Homework encourages students to use time wisely
- Homework teaches students to work independently
- Homework teaches students to take responsibility for their work
- Homework helps students to review and practice what has been covered in class
- Homework prepares students for what they will learn next
- Homework helps students learn to use resources, such as libraries, reference materials, and websites to find information
- Homework encourages students to explore subjects more fully than classroom time often permits
- Homework allows students to extend learning by applying skills to new situations
- Homework helps students integrate learning by applying many different skills to a single task, such as book reports or science projects
- Homework helps parents learn more about what students are learning in school
- Homework allows parents to communicate about what students are learning
- Homework prepares elementary students for middle school, high school and college

We would like to share our homework practices, expectations and rationale for each grade level so that we can collaborate to support all students in developmentally appropriate ways. We know how much you care about your child's education, and that homework is one of the ways that families know about what their child is learning. We hope this handbook is helpful!



# Homework

Grade Level	What are the general homework practices and expectations? What kinds of assignments or activities should families expect to see given as homework?	What is the rationale for this approach at this grade level?	How can families help or participate? Is there any way to extend learning outside of school, besides homework, that fits the academic and developmental needs of our students?
K	You should expect to see Letter of the Week homework, as well as other activities that reinforce the foundational skills taught in our program.	By assigning meaningful homework that is relevant to what is going on in class, we give parents a window into what their child is learning.	We suggest that families select at least three activities each week from the monthly homework calendar found in the back of the homework folder. Remember to read, read and talk, talk, talk!
1	Nightly reading and practicing sight word recognition, occasional projects to work on together as a family, occasional homework math and reading practice	Research supports that students who do additional reading at home will have increase vocabulary and better foundational skills in spelling, comprehension and fluency	Families can provide enriching experiences outside of school (i.e. taking hikes, going to the beach, making discoveries together, sing, read nursery rhymes, visit the library)
2	Nightly reading, standards based review sheet, fluency practice	Research supports nightly reading, review of 2nd grade standards to reinforce concepts taught at school, and provide students with additional fluency practice	Anything you can do that relates to time, money and measurement would reinforce second grade math standards! Discuss people who make a difference and experience various habitats and the animals that live there.
3	Third grade students will read every night at home and they'll have a weekly assignment(s) that extend learning from the classroom to be turned in on the specified date. This could include math, grammar, writing, spelling, social studies, and science.	Students will work on skills that reinforce the weekly standards-based learning that is going on in the classroom. This provides an additional opportunity at home to practice independent work skills and helps build responsibility.	As with second grade, activities that you can do that relate to time, money, and measurement will reinforce all grade level math standards. Any activities that encourage students to participate in real world experiences, which support these standards, can improve

	Unfinished classwork/ assignments may also come home if not completed in class and are expected to be turned in the next day.		student growth enormously. Parents can help by setting aside a regular time and place for students to complete their homework each night, as part of a nightly routine. Parents are expected to look through the weekly Homework/ Communication Folder every night with their student to help them organize, complete assignments, and receive important school and classroom notifications.
4	Homework that connects to classroom activity/lesson. Homework that provides practice of skills (math). Possible completion of classwork. Provide more student choice for homework projects ~ more hands-on activities.	To encourage students to make "real world" connections.  To continue to build on skills.  To allow extra time for classwork that is not complete.	Parent involvement/ participation is a huge part of student learning.  Discussion/conversation between student and parent is extremely valuable.
5	5th grade students will be reading nightly, engaging in rich tasks that relate to their nightly reading and doing hands-on projects to showcase their creativity and foster a love of learning.	Homework allows parents to see where their child is excelling as well as where their child is struggling. Homework should be meaningful and purposeful and supports your child's learning both in the classroom and in the community at large.	Family involvement is a critical piece in student learning. Please engage in rich tasks with your child, choose from homework suggestion activities and read, read, read!
6	Homework general practices include academic conversations with parents about learning targets each day and to practice standard-based tasks to help build student's depth of knowledge.	To strengthen the school-home connection so parents can better understand what their students are learning in class each day.	A key to sixth grade homework is to develop and foster communication, critical thinking, creativity and community.  To extend learning, homework will be purposeful. Our goal is to intrinsically motivate students to complete work and have a love for learning.