

Fourth Grade Homework Guidelines

Own Your Own Learning

This summer and early fall, I researched ways to make Homework more meaningful to student learning without overtaxing students and parents. Homework is an important part of the educational process. It reinforces specific subjects taught in the classroom curriculum; develops responsibility and good study habits; encourages growth of the student to his or her full potential; and builds critical thinking and problem solving. Extended homework assignments such as research reports, allows students the opportunity to apply time management and organization skills in order to monitor and complete projects within the allotted time frame. In addition, homework helps develop responsibility and good study habits.

Parent support of homework is important so that the student builds positive attitudes and successful study habits that will be useful for many years to come. Student learning needs vary from child to child. As a parent, you know what areas your child needs to place extra effort to learn required concepts and be successful in school. The children and I have talked about what our classroom slogan, “Own Your Own Learning” means, so they have a good understanding what goes into taking control of their learning.

This year, I am asking for your support of a new HW policy that will be worthwhile for all of us. Without exception, students need to read at home a minimum of fifteen minutes per day (weekends too). On Mondays and Wednesday there will be assigned HW, usually Religion, Spelling or Phonics, but on Tuesdays, and Thursdays, HW will be lighter than usual so that your student can “Own Their Own Learning” by doing HW that is not “assigned” but selected from one of the following activities listed on the next page. Please post this list on your Family Bulletin Board or refrigerator so you can refer to it frequently.

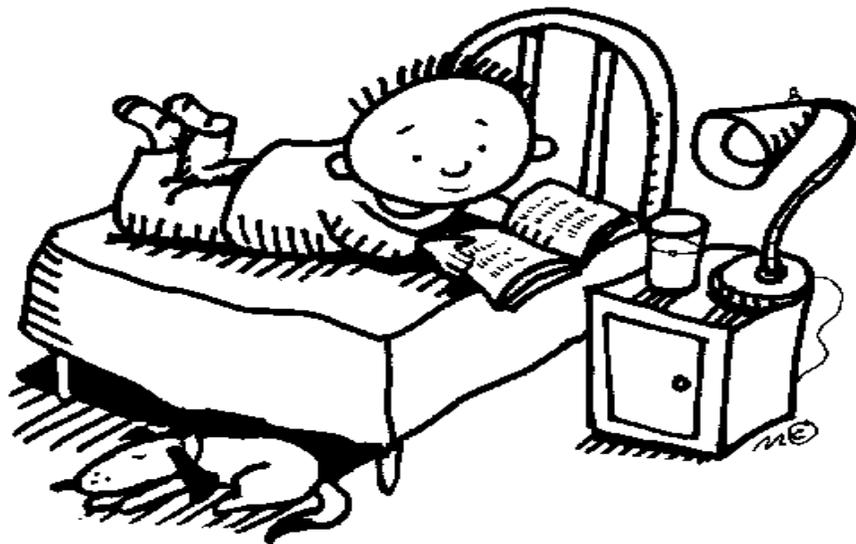
1. Vocabulary practice from books read in the classroom-you and your child could make a game of practicing new vocabulary words at home in conversation with each other, or using the words in a sentence.
2. Reading skills worksheet found in packet.
3. Cursive handwriting practice-you can find a chart with the letters of the alphabet on the inside back cover of the Spelling Book.
4. Research at home the topics for any report we are doing. You could go to the Library to find non-fiction books on the subject to read with your child. This would include the Special Reports your child will give to the class once a trimester.
5. "Book Talk" write ups for the once a month oral book reports your child will give to the class. "Book Talk" presentation schedule is listed below:
6. Vocabulary practice from books read in the classroom-you and your child could make a game of practicing new vocabulary words at home in conversation with each other, or using the words in a sentence.
7. Cursive handwriting practice-you can find a chart with the letters of the alphabet on the inside back cover of the Spelling Book.
8. Research at home the topics for any report we are doing. You could go to the Library to find non-fiction books on the subject to read with your child. This would include the Special Reports your child will give to the class once a trimester.
9. "Book Talk" write ups for the once a month oral book reports your child will give to the class. "Book Talk" presentation schedule is listed below:
 - Numbers 1-6 will present a book that was read at home on the first Monday of each month.
 - Numbers 7-12 will present on the second Monday of the month.
 - Numbers 13-18 will present on the third Monday of the month.
 - Finally, student numbers 19-25 will present on the fourth Monday of the month.
10. Prepare for Washington State History and Science long term learning activities can also be done on these days (ABCs of WA State, Native Americans of WA State, learning the bones in body, reading about organs of the body, and regions of WA State, for example).
11. Study and review for quizzes and tests.
12. Problem solving activities.
13. Math practice sheets, log onto Typing Agent, Think Central, or GregTangmath.com
14. Finish assignments that were started during class time, but need to be completed at home.

15. In addition, you could extend the learning discussions we had at school to include a discussion at home.
16. Encourage your child to report their progress to you on long-term assignments.
17. Study required prayers for Religion; memorize the Ten Commandments and Beatitudes. Read the Gospel reading for Sunday's Mass.

Homework should not exceed 45 min to allow for the 15 min required reading time. I will track student AR tests to ensure that reading is happening at home. If you choose to do something that comes from the list but does not include something that can be turned in the next day, please complete the form that states what you worked on instead, sign the form and have your child turn it in as completed HW the next morning. As partners in your student learning we can be confident that every child will own their own learning.

Thank you for helping your child "Own their own learning" and be successful!

Mrs. Short



Dear Parents,

Please use this form to notify me on what HW your child did if there isn't any WS or paperwork to turn in to me.

Dear Mrs. Short,

Tonight my child worked on,

as part of his/her "Own Your Own Learning Plan".

Thank you for helping your child develop into an independent learner.

Use the space below to write me a note if needed.