

First Grade Homework

Dear Parents,

It's HOMEWORK TIME!

First, I would like to say thank you for your help and support in this tradition. I have consistently found over the years that students who practice the skills learned in class, with the support of family, progress faster and further than the students who do not take advantage of this opportunity. But, please know that I realize this is YOUR family time and I cannot require or grade a student on what they do or do not do outside of my class. I offer homework as an additional resource for you to have to assist them in their education.

Secondly, I would like to briefly mention the power of routine. Children will not forget if they are trained in routines and schedules. I strongly suggest that each family establish a routine. Establishing a consistent location for backpacks, books, reading charts, etc is appropriate as well. Then your child will know exactly where to place and find school things. Children feel empowered when they know what to do and where to find things on their own.

At the beginning of each week, I will send home a packet of homework and 3-4 books for your child to read. Your child will have the entire week to work on these assignments and practice reading the books. **On Fridays your child will return his/her homework folder and books back to me.** While the assignments can be completed at any time during the week, I do expect that the children will **read on a daily basis for at least 20 minutes.** Reading can be done by, with, or to your child. The books that I send home don't need to be the only books that your child reads, but I would like him/her to build fluency by rereading them during the week. Library books and books from home can also be used for nightly reading. If a book is too difficult for your child to read alone, you can do the reading and have him/her help track the print, and look for familiar words. On the Homework Tracking Sheet found on the back of the Newsletter, please write the name of the book your child read and indicate the difficulty level of each book (i.e., Too Hard, Just Right, Too Easy.) You can track days read on the Homework checklist as well **to be updated weekly.** The most important thing is to enjoy spending time together with a good book!

Weekly Assignments will include:

- 1. Read Daily for at least 20 minutes to be recorded on a weekly homework checklist. (This includes the Timed Readings below.)***
- 2. Spelling practice – There is a specific practice designated for every night. **Spelling tests will be given on Fridays.***
- 3. Journal writing and illustrating 1 per week***
- 4. Math assignments 1 per week***
- 5. Timed Readings***

Sight Words for Fluency

Fluency Reading (DIBELS Testing Practice starting in Nov.)

*Every week I will put a writing journal page in your child's homework packet. On the page students can write sentences using the ideas from the monthly chart or record at least one new idea or interesting experience for the day. At first you can help your child to "sound out" words or you can write what your child dictates and let him/her copy the message onto the page. Later in the year, your child's entries should be written independently or with minimal help. We are working towards writing a complete paragraph in 1st grade. The journal entry should be illustrated and can be colored with crayon. I will collect each weekly entry and put it into your child's portfolio. At the end of the year, you can enjoy looking back and seeing how much your child has learned!

On Friday:

- 1. Return Homework Folder***
- 2. Return reading books***
- 3. Return updated reading log, journal page, spelling practice, and math page.***

****I will not send folders home over the weekend. Children are encouraged to read over the weekend.***

FYI

*Children will check out school library books on Fridays. You will want to remind your child to have library books in his/her backpack on Thursday night or Friday morning before coming to school.

*If we have a short week or a Friday without school, students should return the Homework folders and books on the last school day that week.

Updated 8/11/18

Here is a schedule that you can follow so not to be overwhelmed by too much homework on any given night. **IT WILL TAKE MORE TIME IN THE BEGINNING;** but with the regular routine and practice your child will improve and require less time throughout the year. Required reading time is 20 minutes which includes the Sight Words and Nonsense Words. You are welcome to read longer and please do try to read everyday.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Read 10 minutes + Timed Readings: Sight Words 5 min Write Spelling wds 10 min	Read 10 minutes Timed Readings: Sight Words 5 min Practice Spelling 5 minutes 1 page of Math 10-15 min	Read 10 minutes Timed Readings: Sight Words 5 min Practice Spelling 5 minutes 1 page Journal Writing 10-15 min	Read 10 minutes Timed Readings: Sight Words 5 min Practice Spelling 5 minutes

Sincerely,

Mrs. Heaton