

Why do we assign homework?

Homework benefits students when it provides an opportunity for review and practice and when it helps students to establish positive study habits. My observation is that students who do homework in a thorough fashion tend to improve their performance in the classroom and on tests.

It is important that homework not become a disruption to the family and that it remain positive for students. If your student has made a fair effort to complete homework and seems to struggle with the content, please just write a note to that effect on the homework and return it to school. This will help me know when a student needs additional instruction and the student will be excused from that assignment.

Fourth grade homework consists of:

- 20-30 minutes of daily reading. This can be reading alone, being read to, listening to a book on tape, or reading to or with someone. Students may read "AR" books, magazines, menus, newspapers, charts, comics, or any other written materials or books on tape. The objective is to give the reader a chance to engage with text presented in a manner that requires some amount of mental effort on the part of the reader, so that they learn to visualize, organize data, decipher unfamiliar vocabulary, and synthesize new information with their own background knowledge.
- Math pages.
- A weekly writing exercise, typically a prompt about a text.

How can you help your student?

- Please help your student schedule a good time and quiet place to complete their homework. Many students work best when they are in a quiet place with siblings or adults who also are working (making dinner, doing paperwork, doing their own homework). Television and computer games are distracting and should be turned off during homework time.
- Take an interest in your child's work. Ask them what they are working on or what they are reading. Listen to them when they talk about their work.
- Proofread your student's work if requested but do not take over the work.
- If your student does not understand their assignment or if homework is becoming a negative time for your family, please do not worry about it. Just send me a note or contact me by e-mail and the student will be excused.