Homework

Fourth Grade 2010 - 2011

***Dear Parents,***

Welcome to fourth grade! The following letter pertains to the nightly homework expectations in the fourth grade. I will go over homework expectations with the students in class over the next two weeks.

Daily homework will consist of reading for ½ hour, a worksheet or a project, practicing spelling words and math facts. Each day, students will record homework assignments in their student planner. There will be written homework on Monday thru Thursday and the students are expected to continue reading each night over the weekend. My goal is to have homework take around 45 minutes including the reading. Each student has individual learning styles and needs. If you are finding that homework is taking longer 45 minutes please let me right away so we can work out plan that better meets your child’s need. Homework will go home the day it is assigned and will be **due the following day unless stated otherwise**.

School notices and newsletters usually go home on Friday afternoon. On Monday night a classroom newsletter usually go homes which highlights what happened in the classroom the previous week, homework for the week, and also goals for the next week. Permission slips for field trips will often go home Monday night with the newsletter.

**Reading:**

During the week days (Monday through Thursday), students are expected to read for a ½ hour each night and then read for 45 minutes over the weekend (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday night). This will total a 165 minutes of reading for the week. Students will keep track of their reading for the week in their student planner. Once a student finishes a reading book at home, they will be asked to take an Accelerated Reader quiz. At home, reading may be done independently or with a family member. Students are free to choose a fiction or non-fiction book but there may be times when I ask your child to read a particular book. Students will be expected to complete approximately 1 chapter book each month. *(This expectation is unique to each student because of the various reading levels and types of books)* The students will have to write a monthly book review using a chapter book they have read during the month which will be posted on their individual webpage.

**Math**:

It is important for your child to know the basic addition, subtraction, and multiplication facts. Knowing the facts will help your child compute and problem solve efficiently and accurately. The math facts serve as the foundation for future studies in mathematics. Please practice math facts for at least **5 minutes** every night. It should only be a quick review but if you do this every night, learning the facts will be relatively pain free! In the beginning of the school year students will create a custom math fact sheet which they have created to complete each night. As the students show mastery of their math facts on their Friday fast fact quiz; the nightly facts sheets will be reduced. Also, I can provide games, flash cards, or other ideas...**just ask.**  Every Friday there will be a weekly fast fact quiz on their math facts.

**Spelling:**

Each week students will have a spelling list that will focus on a certain spelling pattern or words that relate to a common theme. Throughout the week, they should practice sorting and visualizing these words. Attached is a sheet of a suggested ways to practice spelling words. There will be a weekly quiz on their spelling list every Friday. The quiz will consist of 10 words from that list. Students will be given seven of those words and the remaining three will be surprise but will come from the list. There will also be a bonus word that will follow a pattern they have been studying but not on their list.

**Missing or late Homework:**

 Recognizing that we all lead busy lifestyles, there may be a situation that your child can not complete their homework. At these moments, the **student** should write a brief note to me explaining the reason why the homework is not complete. Upon receiving the note, I will meet with the child individually and develop a plan. Students are can “catch up” on their reading if they miss a night by reading a little bit longer each day.

Lastly, it is important to understand that each student has unique needs and academic levels. To help meet the needs of the each student it is important that we have good communication. Homework is intended to take no more than 50 minutes a night which includes reading. If homework is taking too long at night please let me know right away. Please contact me if you have questions or concerns about the nightly homework. Thank you for your time.

Yours truly,

Mr. Ferguson