

Homework

In 3rd grade we see homework as having three main purposes. One is to solidify the concepts taught at school by providing additional opportunities to practice them throughout the school year. Secondly, we want students to establish "good homework habits," so that in future years as homework increases, these routines are already in place. Last of all, homework helps form a connection between home and school. Homework allows families to see what their child is exploring at school. Listed below are the pieces we use to accomplish our homework goals.

Math Homework (Re-teach/Practice): A math worksheet will be sent home Monday through Thursday unless it is a test day. The worksheet will review the concepts that we are working on in class. One side is labeled Re-teach. This side provides a model of how the concept is taught with a few practice problems. Both sides must be completed each night. Sometimes a few problems may already be completed in class. Also, if problems are crossed out they are optional and may be skipped.

Math Fact Practice: By the end of 3rd grade all students are expected to know the basic facts. Addition and subtraction facts were studied in 2nd grade. In third grade, our primary focus will be multiplication and division facts. All of these facts should be mastered and memorized by the end of third grade. Each week we will be taking a math fact check-up quiz. Therefore, it is vital that they have continuous practice. Along with the practice at school, it is also expected that they practice at home. There are a couple of ways to practice facts at home- students can access Moby Max (coming soon!) through the internet to practice or can use flash cards, other fact practice games/applications online, or other games. Make it fun!

Students who have not mastered their addition and subtraction facts will start with these basic facts and will move up to multiplication and division when they're ready. Students that have mastered these facts will start multiplication and division right away. Their hard work will pay off when they reach fourth grade!

Monthly Reading Calendar: Starting in October, a calendar will be sent home to record daily reading minutes. Per month, students are required to read a minimum of 300 minutes. This breaks down to 15 minutes per weekday night (or 5 times per week.) We understand that families' schedules are crazy and vary from day to day. Therefore, we are setting a monthly goal rather than a nightly goal. Students that meet or exceed the goal of 300 minutes will receive a reward for their accomplishment. Calendars are due the first day of the following month even if the reading goal was not met.

Calendars will only be accepted with a parent signature. *Additional reading homework may be assigned on an individual basis.*

Monthly Blog Post: OPTIONAL: Each month, starting in October, a new reading prompt will be posted on the Classroom website under the Classroom blog. If students make a response on the blog by the last day of the month, an additional 30 minutes can be added to their reading calendar. Students are welcome to respond to other students' posts. A student's post should include their name, the name of the book, and a response to the prompt of 3-5 sentences. Students are encouraged to follow conventions rules (Capitalization, punctuation, etc.)

Words their Way Practice: After a new sort (spelling words) is introduced and practiced at school, students will take a copy of their words home for additional practice. Students can practice these words by sorting them by their patterns, repeatedly writing them, or by playing other fun games your family comes up with ☺. Students are expected to practice these words on a regular basis, which will help them be successful on occasional spelling checks (similar to a spelling test). Communication will be sent home to families indicating when spelling checks will occur.

HOW CAN YOU HELP? Be a Homework Buddy!

As a partnership in learning, we would like your child to have a homework buddy at home. Their buddy could be mom, dad, older brothers or sisters, grandparents, or even babysitters. You can decide who will be the responsible buddy.

Their buddy will check to make sure homework assignments are completed on time. If any problems cause confusion, jot a note beside it. We will review it at school.

Reading Calendars require a homework buddy signature.

Thank you for your support and encouragement of GOOD HOMEWORK HABITS!!

The Third Grade Teachers