

Homework Policies

Overview

Fifth grade is a critical year. Students focus on improving organizational skills, developing solid study habits, and establishing a sense of personal responsibility. Completing assigned work is an essential component to becoming a successful student. All assigned work will be discussed and explained in full during class time. Students are encouraged to ask questions to clarify. Furthermore, time will be allotted to begin homework tasks during the school day. With the exception of studying for quizzes and tests, fifth grade homework is intended to be done *without parental help*. Please allow your child to complete the work independently, offering help only with clarification of directions. They may contact me for help through Google Classroom, or if they are really struggling with a particular assignment, they may give it their best attempt and come to me in the morning for help. I do not want homework to be a cause of stress!

Time

The amount of time needed to complete tasks will vary from student to student. This will depend on what has been finished at school, in addition to whether or not this is a concept requiring extra attention and practice. With that in mind, assigned work reflects the curriculum with an emphasis on the quality of work as opposed to quantity. If they manage their time well during the school day and at home, students in my classroom should be spending no more than 30 minutes nightly on homework, not including reading for pleasure. I coordinate with Mrs. Ruebush to ensure they do not have large social studies assignments due or tests on the same day as another subject. I also try to limit homework on evenings they need to travel for basketball and volleyball away games.

Daily homework

Daily homework may consist of a math page, spelling, and/or novel studies, most of which has been started in class. Students are also strongly encouraged to read for pleasure for 20-30 minutes each evening. Math homework is for extra practice and is given an effort grade; I use math homework to see what concepts need extra attention and explanation the following day. Therefore, *please refrain from giving your child the answers*. Sometimes too much help can end up being counterproductive as your child may have learned the steps differently in class. :)

Long-term projects

It is important to note that homework may include long-term assignments. Time management is key to success with long-term projects, and they will be reminded and advised along the way. Quarterly book projects and the annual science fair projects are done exclusively at home. Other long-term projects are done in class with only unfinished work being brought home. The students are given the instructions and most materials needed to complete the book projects completely on their own. A separate explanation of the book projects will be sent home.

Studying for quizzes and tests

Parents are encouraged to help students study for quizzes and tests! Students will have a spelling pre-test every Tuesday and a post-test on Fridays. They will have quizzes and tests in every subject and will bring home study guides. We will also utilize the website Quizlet to access flashcards and games for independent study at school and home.

Late assignments

If an assignment is late, **ten percent** will be deducted from the total grade for **each day** past the due date. If a student accumulates three missing or late assignments, parents will be notified and a plan will be put in place to set specific goals and guidelines.

Corrections

After an assignment is graded and returned, students may choose to make corrections in class. They can receive **half credit back** for accurately corrected work. All work must be submitted prior to the end of the grading period.