



4th Grade Homework Expectations



September 17, 2007

Dear Parents:

This week your child received his/her first homework assignment sheet. The following outline is written with the intent to explain the classroom homework practice. Please let me know if something seems unclear.

1. The assignment sheet should be kept in the **red homework folder** throughout the week. You and your child should look at the assignment sheet together and discuss the weekly expectations. As a fourth grader, I am hoping that your child will take most of the responsibility for referring to the sheet daily and completing assignments independently. Students may benefit from your assistance in breaking down larger projects into smaller parts and organizing themselves. Throughout the year, I will add "permanent" references to the folder (i.e. measurement table, maps, sentence starters, etc.) for students to use when completing homework assignments.
2. The assignment sheet will be given out on **Fridays**. Although I do not expect homework to be completed over the weekend, I provide the list of assignments ahead of time so that you and your child can **organize the week**. Some students prefer to start their homework over the weekend due to their sports and lesson schedule on the week nights.
3. Students should check off completed assignments and keep them in the "done" pocket. Assignments will be collected on the due date. We will **go over homework together** and often share written assignments. Homework is part of our daily instruction; it is not just handed in to me.
4. Many parents often question how often or how much they should help their child. I feel that this question is best answered on an **individual basis**. As mentioned earlier, fourth grade is a great age to encourage independent responsibility. However, the time a parent spends working with their child can often be valuable. If your child seeks encouragement, praise or assistance, provide it. On the other hand, if your child is resisting help and / or isn't asking for assistance, leave them alone. Don't make it a battle; don't let your child lean on you – provide a balance. Homework should be completed neatly and be representative of your child's best independent efforts. We will always review homework in class.

In addition, please supply a quiet working place with adequate lighting. Lined composition paper, U.S. and metric rulers, a student dictionary, a thesaurus and atlases are **helpful materials** to have at home.

5. Many parents pay more attention to the paper/pencil tasks that must be completed each week rather than the books their child is reading. Please know what your child is reading. Talk with your child about books. Read aloud to your child and encourage them to read at least 20 minutes each night! Please sign the reading log each week. Your signature verifies that your child is reading nightly for 20 minutes. **The nightly reading is just as important, if not more important than the worksheets.**
6. If your child spends well over 40 minutes completing assignments or experiences frequent frustration please let me know so that I can adapt assignments.
7. During most weeks students will be expected to read nightly, complete math worksheets and write a neatly composed reading response. In addition, students will be asked to complete handwriting, science, social studies and additional writing assignments. Assignments are often linked to the weekly curriculum. Lastly, there will be tentatively 3 book projects assigned throughout the year. The first project will be due in November.
9. Writing assignments (not cursive practice) may be completed on the computer or handwritten.

Hope this outline has been helpful. Thanks for your support.

Liz Gray

I have read the above outline and have no questions.

Student signature

Parent signature