

To: Parents of Fourth Grade Students
From: Stephanie Apanell
Pete Crisafulli

HOMework

There has been some discussion among families regarding the expectations for homework for fourth graders. I would like to clarify what students and parents should expect in terms of the amount of time that should be allocated for homework:

The total amount of time that fourth graders should spend on homework is 40 - 45 minutes. If the homework is taking longer than 45 minutes, I would appreciate knowing so adjustments can be discussed. Fourth graders need assistance from parents learning how to approach homework with focused effort, as well as keeping their papers and binder organized. It is not expected that most fourth graders can be sent to their rooms to complete homework independently. Homework is intended to reinforce concepts and practice skills with the goal of them becoming permanent.

To help your child develop good study habits I would like to outline suggested time frames. Keep in mind that these time frames can vary depending on your child's work habits.

READING: 60 minutes per week, divided into nightly reading that best works for your child's schedule. Students may read assigned reading from school or a book, magazine, or other enjoyable reading material from home or the library. Daily practice with independent reading is the key to developing strong reading skills and building a habit of life long reading.

MATHEMATICS: 10-15 focused uninterrupted minutes practicing mathematical skills on assigned problems. If a student reaches 15 minutes and the assigned problems are not complete, he/she should circle the last completed problem and **STOP working**. This will help me know if the amount of practice assigned is more than the student can successfully complete in 15 minutes, or if the student is having difficulty with a specific skill.

SPELLING: 10-15 focused uninterrupted minutes practicing the words for the week with a variety of activities.

SCIENCE/SOCIAL STUDIES/OTHER: varied amounts of time depending upon the unit of study. Students will need to study for quizzes/tests. Long term assignments will be explicitly explained with plenty of time given to complete each step. Notice of these larger assignments will always come home asking for a parent signature to ensure that families are aware of what their child needs to be working on.

MAKE-UP WORK: When students are out of school a folder is kept on their desk to collect the work that was completed in class. This folder is often sent home the day the student is out (at the request of a parent), or given to the child when he/she returns to school. It is not expected that a sick child complete every assignment missed when he/she isn't feeling well. Families need to use their best judgment as to what their child feels up to completing. We can come up with a plan for what remains to be completed.

BAND/MEDIATION: If a student is out of the room for a band lesson or mediation assignment, he/she is required to complete the work missed while out of the room for homework. This missed assignment would be in addition to the regularly assigned homework. This agreement is clearly explained when students sign up for these extra activities and is consistent in all of the upper grades.