

Dear Parents,

Thank you so much for taking the time to attend Open House last Thursday. I was pleased to see so many seats filled and to put faces with names. The time we shared felt very rushed and I want to make sure you get a clear understanding of how homework works in our class going forward.

Up until this point I have been adding one more piece to their homework each week. This week there are two new additions that might feel overwhelming at first. The big thing to remember is that learning to manage the homework is a process and I don't expect perfection. I do know that it will take time for the routines to get ironed out and time management to become more refined.

If for any reason your child is unable to complete a part of the homework, or they worked really hard on one part (like the paragraph) and it took their nightly reading time, please just write me a note stating so. There will be no consequence for them if I know they've tried hard. I've told the children that the one thing I won't accept is someone coming to me on Friday saying they didn't do their ELA packet or they didn't know what to do. Questions should come to me earlier than Friday.

I encourage you to sit down with your child to help them determine what pieces of homework they should try to get to each night. You know their after school schedule and what days are tighter than others so if you have a heavy Monday, see what feels ok to bump to Tuesday.

This is just a suggestion:

Monday: Get planner signed, Math Study Link, Paragraph planner for assigned paragraph, one page of spelling, nightly reading

Tuesday: Math Study Link, First Draft of Paragraph, 1/2 of 2nd spelling activity (or wait until Weds. or Thurs), nightly reading

Wednesday: Math Study Link, Revise/Edit draft, 1/2 of 2nd spelling activity, try math challenge, nightly reading

Thursday: Math Study Link, Final Draft (not mandatory but the only way to get a 4 on the ELA packet), practice spelling words, nightly reading

Friday: ELA packet and Nightly reading sheet due.

It may feel overwhelming at first and I encourage you to let me know how it goes. Perhaps for this first week your child will only write one draft of their paragraph. The final draft is optional but it is the only way they can achieve a 4. They can set that as a goal for another week if they want to go for a 4.

Finally, I have told the children that the spelling words they receive are open to revision as we need to find words that are just right for them. I will see how they do for the first few weeks and then decide if anyone needs a change.

Thank you for all you do to support your children. As I said the other night, this feels like a thoughtful, caring group of children who want to do their best. I feel fortunate to get to work with them and you this year.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Dwyer