



Homework is a tricky topic. Everyone has an opinion about it, whether good or bad. Students dread homework because it is typically boring worksheets. Parents dread it because it takes time away from other planned activities or family time. Teachers are also concerned about homework because we question did the student do this on their own? Did they have help? Did a parent go over it? Why is it incomplete? I could keep going, but you get the idea.

This year homework may be very different from what you have experienced in the past. We will be using a TEAM homework approach. Each week, your child will have a list of homework options. These items will be selected to help your child master basic skills with fluency. Each activity completed will earn your child one star. There may be additional activities listed for those students who need it, or like, an extra challenge. The more activities completed, the more stars earned.

My TEAM homework assignments usually consist of **spelling practice** (no particular assignments - a menu is provided for choices) to prepare for their spelling test on Fridays. **Nightly reading** (again, student choice, but suggestions will be provided) is important to encourage good reading habits - I make it about reading rather than focusing too much on what is being read. **Math games** (woohoo!) are a fun way to reinforce the standards and concepts taught in class. There will be study guides/review sheets/textbooks sent home in preparation for assessments. Social Studies and Science will usually have some sort of review or practice for the week. Starting in September they will also get a **writing calendar** each month. They can choose one of the topics for the week to complete as one of their options for homework.

These assignments will be listed on a **homework bookmark** (to be kept in the student's pencil pouch) and also written in their planner. Students will put a STAR beside activities they complete for the week. On Fridays, students return their bookmarks with the TOTAL of stars they earned for the week. Parents will sign the bookmark for accountability. If stars are not totaled with a parent signature, the stars are not counted toward the class total. As a quick math mini-lesson, we add the stars together. If students earn enough stars, they receive their reward toward the end of the day! The reward will consist of minutes of fun, learning time as follows:

100-150 stars = 10 minutes of learning game time
151-200 stars = 13 minutes of learning game time
201 + stars = 15 minutes of learning game time

Assignments are optional and parents/students choose the tasks they want to complete for the week. However, students quickly learn that if they are not pulling their "weight" the class will not meet its weekly goal.

Together, as a TEAM, we will grow and succeed!

