

### **“What homework should my child have daily?”**

I do not assign "HOMEWORK," outside of the nightly 20 minutes of reading; with accompanying reading log that remain in the "homework" side of the "Bounce Back Folder." However, any class work that isn't completed during class "turns into" homework.

It is *\*never\** my intention for kids to work **HOURS** on homework. Truthfully, we work very hard during our time at school and only receive 50 minutes of non-instructional time in Third Grade (that is lunch/recess). Because we work very hard throughout the day, I rarely assign any other "homework," besides the nightly reading log. You might notice a particular night might result in more items to complete than another, but it should not be a daily trend.

If you notice your child coming home with more than a reasonable amount of homework; or your child's homework is taking much longer to complete, please let me know. 😊

### **“Ok, I know you explained the homework/classwork scenario, but what about the Agenda?”**

Each day, students begin their learning by writing down our daily tasks in their Agendas. These are the studies/areas of focus for the day and include all assignments we will tackle for the day. Throughout the day (and a thousand times during the first few weeks of school), we go over each and every subject in the Agenda as I teach, and cross off completed work, and circle incomplete work. At the very end of the day, we double check our Agendas and make certain we have our mail, behavior charts colored, and any assignments from the day that have "turned into" homework.

The "Reading Log" paper with spots for five days of reading (with an accompanying question about the reading), parent signature, and minutes read, is the only daily homework students will have each and every day. It is *\*not\** an item that students write in their Agendas. That paper is kept in the homework side of the folder because students need it every single day. I will remove it from their folders then it is complete.

### **“If my child is as busy as you say he/she is... then WHERE are all of the papers to prove that?”**

With the switch to Common Core, you will notice less paperwork coming home than previous years because the focus is more student-centered, hands-on, thinking/listening/sharing, as opposed to silently sitting at the desk and completing worksheets independently. This is true for Reading, Science, and Social Studies. (There will be less paperwork for those subjects and more practicing/"doing"/group work/projects, etc.)

For Math, students have daily journals and "Unit Center Folders." These folders collect center work, teacher time work, and independent practice work. At the very end of the unit we are studying, I will send a GIGANTIC stack of papers home (paper clipped). Often times, it makes more sense to see a bundled group of work, instead of a stray paper here and there coming home in the folders (or crumpled in desks and lockers, HAHA!). More often, you will never see a center paper because it was a dry eraser board or a puzzle/game that accompanies our area of study. For instance, I have thirteen centers for our "Place Value Unit." Only two centers have an actual piece of paper as the recording sheet.

During Writing/English, we keep daily journals and our plans, graphic organizers, and sloppy copies at school until we are finished with them and have published a final copy in our "student library."

We are ALMOST ready to publish our first piece of writing; we just are putting the finishing touches on them (adding VIVID verbs, INTERESTING introductions, and precise conclusions).

A few papers are kept for “student portfolios.” These are never graded—they work as a way for me to better assess student growth and differentiate learning).

Finally, the recycling bin receives a few papers here and there --- if they were just for practicing and were not intended for the grade book.

I hope this helps! I know it can be so difficult adjusting to new teachers, new routines, new curriculum, etc. You will always see “the usuals” coming home, such as the reading test and spelling test.