

Homework projects 2010-2011

Weekly Homework:

Students are expected to study throughout the week in the areas of spelling, math, reading, and writing. It is a great idea to practice a few minutes each day on these subjects. I have listed required weekly homework and other suggestions for encouraging educational growth below.

Required Weekly Homework:

- 1) Study for the weekly spelling and vocabulary tests
- 2) Study basic math facts (addition and subtraction—later multiplication for second graders) our students will take daily minute math quizzes and studying at home helps them progress quicker.
- 3) Study sight words. Our students are tested weekly on the sight word lists. Those students that practice at home move through the list at a much quicker pace than those who practice at school only.
- 4) Penmanship practice—please have students practice writing at least a few times each week.
- 5) Reading stories—will count for 100 book club and if choosing a book off of our quiz list, it can count for the accelerated reader program

Study time can be made fun by playing games and doing special activities together to reinforce the skills that are taught at school. Below are ideas for each subject area:

Spelling:

- practice writing each word 3 times each
- use each word in a sentence or use them in a poem or story
- study orally in the car, on the swing set, or even while playing ball or jump rope
- write each syllable of a word on separate cards and learn the small parts before putting them together
- make up a song or rhyme to memorize the words

Reading:

- Read books together each night (students should be reading at least 100 books at home this year)
- Take turns reading pages or sentences with the child
- make up questions and ask each other about the books
- put sight words on flashcards and play games with them like go fish, memory, etc.

- tape sight words up around the house (like the bathroom mirror) and have them practice during mundane activities like brushing their teeth
- label objects in the house to build a larger sight word vocabulary
- have children read aloud to their dolls and stuffed animals if they can't read to you at that moment
- choose educational board games and software for students to play at home
- Students in the first and second grades will be using accelerated reading programs at school. They are encouraged to read books that match their lexile levels (a number that reflects their reading level) and come in and take tests at school on the computer. A list of available quizzes are available on our class website or on the class cd-rom.
- Have students practice the sight word list daily. A list is available on-line and students will be tested weekly on them.

Math

- help students practice basic facts by using flashcards
- use educational software and games or make your own
- have students practice basic facts while jumping rope in a rhythmic way or bouncing a ball
- put math facts to music
- practice using money, telling time, fractions and other skills in everyday activities like cooking and grocery shopping
- Ask students simple word problems or basic math facts while in the car, waiting in line, etc.

Writing

- practice penmanship frequently by using workbooks or pages
- Let children write out grocery lists, to do lists, etc.
- have students make books by writing and illustrating
- help students write letters to friends and family or help them get a pen-pal
- Practice writing with many instruments including pencils, crayons, chalk, dry-erase markers, etc.
- have students "write in the air" or in shaving cream (shaving cream works great as a cleaner so they can clean up when they're done)
- use fun soap in the bath tub for children to practice writing with