

Amount and frequency

Consistent homework positively influences student achievement. ECC students are expected to read each night, have an adult read to them and complete math homework each week. Parents should expect kindergarten students to spend 10 minutes on math homework per night and 15 minutes listening to an adult read. First graders should spend up to 15 minutes reading their guided reading books and up to 15 minutes on math homework. If parents find that their children are spending an excessive amount of time on homework, they should contact the teacher.

Completion Guidelines

Our purpose in assigning homework is to help students begin to take responsibility for their learning in the earliest years of their educational career. We strive each day to teach in such a way that your child understands that he/she is a powerful thinker and can make important decisions about his/her learning. Homework is assigned then to promote the idea that learning happens in and outside of the classroom and that they are responsible for learning in both settings.

Kindergarten Literacy

We expect parents to read to their child each evening or morning for 15 minutes. ECC reading specialists have prepared backpack books to be taken home three of four evenings per week with kindergarten students. Parents will be asked to sign the book envelope and have their child return it to school. Once students begin guided reading, they will be responsible for reading their books each night to an adult or older sibling and returning them to school the next day.

If a student does not have someone read to them or they do not read their guided reading books,

they will have an opportunity to do both with an adult in the building the next day during their recess or free choice time.

First Grade Literacy

We expect parents to read to their child each evening or morning for 15 minutes. Guided reading books need to be read every night to an adult or older sibling and returned to school the next day.

If students do not read their guided reading books, they will read to an ECC staff member during their recess or free choice time the next day. Students will also be responsible for practicing the words on their personalized spelling list each week.

Kindergarten & First Grade Math

Students will be responsible for taking their math journals home each evening and sharing their daily math thinking and work with an adult or older sibling. There will be a practice or extension activity to complete in their journals each evening. If a student does not complete the math homework, he/she will complete it during Fun Friday math time.

For More Information

The complete ECC Homework Plan can be found in the Parent/Student Handbook and in the main office. We also invite you to visit the district website at www.mrhhsd.org to review the homework plans at each level under "Parent Resources."



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**MRH Early Childhood Center
School as Studio**

**Homework Information
for Parents
2006-2007**

Philosophy

Homework is a valuable tool in the learning process; it is a natural extension of the work students complete in class. Homework provides opportunities to apply learning and to experience necessary practice. It develops student responsibility and accountability by developing work habits essential for succeeding in life. Homework offers teachers, parents and students the opportunity to be involved in and support the learning process outside of school. Research shows that homework increases student achievement.

To move our students forward in the learning process, MRH students will be given consistent, appropriate and meaningful homework.

Purpose

Our faculty strives to make each homework assignment meaningful and purposeful. To that end, homework gives students the opportunity to practice skills, prepare for a new topic or elaborate on material already introduced. Our faculty will share with students the purpose of each homework assignment. Robert Marzano, a leader in the field of educational research, identifies several major purposes of homework.

Practice - Students must reach a level of self-sufficiency in performing a learned skill. This kind of homework typically increases speed and accuracy.

Preparation - Students must access prior knowledge about a topic to be learned. The focus of this type of assignment might ask a student to reflect on previous learning or think about what they want to learn.

Elaboration/Extension/Enrichment - This type of homework might require students to conduct research, compare items, support a position or develop a graphic organizer of information. These challenging assignments allow students to demonstrate their knowledge in creative and varied ways.

Reading - Students must spend time reading to increase fluency and comprehension while preparing for discussions or key writing assignments. Only by practicing this key skill will students improve in reading.

Study - This type of homework requires students to review material in notes and assignments to commit key information, ideas and concepts into long-term memory and to enhance understanding of a subject. Students will need to review and make connections between information and assignments to further enhance their understanding.

Parent Role

- Establish a homework routine (This is a crucial step in helping your child develop positive work habits for his/her educational career.)
- Provide a quiet, well-lit place, materials, and a consistent time for children to work
- Check your child's homework folder each evening
- Read to your child every night or every morning for 15 minutes
- Support and motivate your child but do not do the homework for him/her
- Contact the teacher if your child is struggling with assignments or spending an excessive amount of time on homework
- Praise your child's efforts and keep a positive attitude about homework

Student Role

- Listen to directions from your teacher so you know what to do
- Be responsible for putting reading packets, reading folders, or guided reading bags in your backpack each day
- Take your homework folder out of your backpack and show it to your parent or caregiver
- Read to an adult or older sibling every night
- Do your work neatly and do your best
- Pack your homework in your backpack and bring your backpack to school each day

Teacher role

- Assign meaningful and purposeful homework
- Consider individual differences
- Identify the type of homework-Practice, Preparation, Elaboration/Extension/Enrichment
- Give daily verbal feedback to child
- Communicate weekly with parents using the homework folder