

Pine Crest Elementary School

Homework Policy

Research studies have shown that the amount of time devoted to learning is related to achievement in a subject. Homework, therefore, is important in a child's overall educational program. It gives children an opportunity to practice, reinforce and/or extend the skills and concepts taught in the classroom. Additionally, teachers can provide feedback (oral and/or written) on new skills. Homework also helps to establish good work and study skills. The teacher will consider individual differences/needs and determine the nature and length of homework assignments.

Homework assignments may include:

- Reinforcement of extension of skills
- Enrichment opportunities
- Independent work
- Long-term projects
- Unfinished classroom work

Homework Guidelines

- Homework is intended to be used for practice and is not part of the student's grade unless it has been identified and communicated prior to the assignment. In summary:
 - Homework for practice is reported as a learning skill.
 - Homework for assessment is included in the academic grade.
- Children will be assigned homework 3 to 5 times per week in accordance with MCPS policy.
- Length of homework assignments will vary from 30 to 90 minutes.
- Teachers will review assignments, procedures for accomplishing the work, due dates, and methods of evaluation.
- Teachers will give feedback on homework that is assigned to practice new skills. Feedback can be given in writing or by talking with students individually or in groups.
- Homework can be made up with teacher assistance when necessary, i.e. when the student is absent because of illness, other excused reasons or school-related activities.
- The individual child should assume the major responsibility for obtaining and completing homework assignments.
- Homework will not be assigned preceding or due following designated religious holiday
- Parents are encouraged to take an active role in their child's homework by reviewing the assignments nightly, providing an area which is conducive to studying, assisting the student with oral drill and practice, providing access to reference materials and by being supportive and positive.
- If a child is unable to complete the work or does not understand the assignment, the parent should write a note to the teacher explaining the difficulty or reason the homework was not complete.

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- Whenever specific assignments are not given, children should use homework time to read, study their spelling or basic math facts, expand their writing skills through journal entries, solve real-life significant problems and/or participate in community activities.

Makeup Work Requests

Requests for makeup work must be made by 9:45 a.m. and picked-up at 3:30 p.m.

When asking teachers to prepare work for a child who will not be school, please keep in mind:

- Long-range instructional plans can change, requiring teachers to make daily instructional decisions which might alter from pre-prepared work packets.
- New skills are continually being taught and reinforced on a progressive basis.
- Children need to attend school on a regular basis to benefit from daily instruction. Consequently, there is limited value for children to complete a large number of work papers or assignments on their own without teacher instruction or directions, and interactions with peers.

Extended Vacations Assignments

If you choose to take an extended vacation, other than those scheduled on the school calendar, your child will miss a great deal of important instruction. Rather than sending home assignments prior to the planned vacation, below is a list of recommended activities your child can do during the period of time that you are assuming responsibility for his/her education.

These activities include having your child:

- Keep a daily diary, journal or travel log. This will encourage your child to use and expand his/her language skills. Your child will need your help and guidance to make this a worthwhile experience. The diary, journal, or log can be brought to school and shared with the teacher and classmates.
- Make collections of shells, rocks, sea life specimens, etc. Label and mount appropriate items. Children can also research other found items in order to broaden their knowledge in that area.
- Make graphs and/or keep records (i.e. gas mileage, routes taken, miles traveled, etc.).
- Record visits to historic sites- talk about how it relates to topics covered in school.
- Read books to stimulate interest and to strengthen reading skills. We encourage you to read to and/or with your child on a regular basis.

Upon returning to the classroom, we will make every attempt to instruct your child in the skills he/she missed.