

Merriam School Homework Procedures

Philosophy:

As stated in the district policy, we encourage playtime, downtime and family time. Our homework assignments reflect our commitment to **engagement, quality, differentiation, equity and a direct connection to classroom learning**. We always encourage children and families to read at home, as reading is beneficial to learning.

Students traveling at any time during the school year will not be provided make-up work or any additional assignment(s) during that time. We hope that you and your child utilize this time as a teaching and learning experience.

Recommended Reading for Every Child

Merriam School recommends that every child read for 20 minutes each day. This could be independent reading, shared reading or read aloud. Children can read from any genre including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, blogs, etc. (Nagy & Herman, 1987)

Kindergarten	<p>Research shows that children’s social, language and academic skills benefit from play and family engagement. More specifically, unstructured play promotes the development of imagination and problem solving skills. Time spent reading with your child, playing board games, and sharing experiences together help to foster successful learners.</p> <p>We will occasionally provide activities and resources for families to engage with at home. However, we have no expectations that activities sent home will come back, as they are all optional.</p> <p>Communication regarding curriculum and classroom happenings will come through email, frequent classroom news, and through your child’s Home/School folder. Typically these communications will come out weekly.</p>
Grade 1/2	<p>We believe that children benefit from play and family engagement. Time spent reading with your child, playing games, and sharing experiences together, help to foster successful learners. We have no expectations that activities sent home will come back, as they are all optional.</p> <p>Parent-teacher communication in grades ½ may be in the form(s) of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seesaw (photographs, videos, student work, all parents can access despite language barriers) • Bi-monthly newsletter in the form of a graphic organizer (plug-in) • Math--send out preview of math unit (found in math books) • Math--send home pages at the end of each unit (no expectation to have it corrected) • Social Studies/Science unit previews (1 page) • Ask your child about... (conversation starters)

Grade 3/4	<p>We believe that children benefit from play and family engagement. Time spent reading with your child, playing games, and sharing experiences together help to foster successful learners.</p> <p>Communication regarding curriculum/instruction, and classroom happenings will happen through a variety of means based upon teacher discretion. This may include emails, classroom newsletters, or class websites at least once a month.</p>
Grade 5	<p>Occasionally students will bring home assignments connected to class work. These may involve family discussions around memoirs. They might also include preparations for class events (ie. pioneer simulation) such as food, costumes, props or displays. Students should expect to have assigned reading at various points throughout the year.</p> <p>Math homework will go home roughly 2-3 times a week at teacher discretion based on the needs of the class and the content of recent lessons. Students should not work longer than 20 minutes on any math assignment.</p> <p>Communication regarding curriculum/instruction, and classroom happenings will happen through a variety of means based upon teacher discretion. This may include emails, classroom newsletters, or class websites at least once a month.</p>
Grade 6	<p>Occasionally students will bring home assignments connected to class work. These may involve bringing in items for projects (ie. Egypt feast food, Marketplace artifacts).</p> <p>Students should expect to be working on the TOPICs project almost every week. This could include reading, brainstorming, drafting, writing, researching, illustrating, creating, building, or practicing for presentations. Students should expect to be assigned readings at various points throughout the year.</p> <p>Math homework will go home roughly 2-3 times/week at teacher discretion based on the needs of the class and the content of recent lessons. Students should not work longer than 20 minutes on any math assignment.</p> <p>Communication regarding curriculum/instruction, and classroom happenings will be done through a variety of means based upon teacher discretion. This may include emails, classroom newsletters, or class websites at least once a month.</p>

*Our policy was guided by the following considerations: Quality versus quantity, engagement, equity, differentiation, and follow-up.

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