

HOMWORK EXPECTATIONS

This letter explains the homework policy for my classroom. Please read this policy with your child so that you understand the expectations of students and parents with regard to homework. Following these guidelines can help decrease tension associated with homework and increase your child's learning.

For your child to be successful with homework, he/she needs:

A place to do homework. If possible, your child should do his/her homework in the same place (an uncluttered, quiet space to study).

A schedule for completing homework. Set a homework schedule that fits in with each day's particular activities.

Encouragement, motivation, and prompting. It is not a good idea to sit with your child and do homework with him/her. Your child needs to practice independently and to apply what he/she has learned in class. A more effective strategy would be to "check in" with your child every five to ten minutes to assess progress. If your child consistently cannot complete homework assignments alone, please contact me.

Understanding of the knowledge. When your child is practicing a math skill, ask which steps he/she finds difficult and which steps he/she finds easy. Inquire how he/she plans to improve speed and accuracy with the skill. If your child consistently cannot answer these questions, please contact me.

Reasonable time expectations. If while working on math homework your child becomes frustrated, take a break and come back to it later. If your child still does not understand the concept or is having difficulty then have them go to dmills.weebly.com and have them click on the homework help button. There they will find strategies to help them with their assignment. If your child consistently seems to spending more than 20 minutes of concentrated effort each night on math homework, please contact me.

Grading

An assignment will be given almost every day, and it is my hope that your child will spend 10 - 20 minutes a night completing it. Each day that your child comes to class, he/she is given a score of 4,3,2,1, or 0, based on how much of the homework he/she **attempted** to complete. This is an **effort** score. For example, a score of "4" indicates he/she tried **all** the problems, and a score of "2" means the student attempted **half** of the assignment, etc. Students need an opportunity to learn and to try new concepts without penalty. We will be correcting the assignment in class so your student will know how well he/she understood the concepts that were presented, but the daily grade will be based on **completion**.

Your child will also receive a weekly Skill Builder assignment that will be assigned on Friday of one week, and will be due on the following Friday. The grading of this particular assignment will be based on the number of problems correct out of the total.

If you have any questions about homework expectations, please contact me at the middle school at 668-3361, extension 1475 or via email, at dmills@mattawanschools.org

Mathematically yours,

Dave Mills