

# Star Homework

Dear Parents,

We are beginning our second grade homework this week. I am following something called "The Universal Homework Method" which emphasizes more skill practice and fewer worksheets. Your child will have homework from Monday-Thursday each week.

The core will consist of spelling practice, math fact practice, and reading. I expect each child to read a book, magazine, Raz Kids, etc. for at least 15 minutes. You may count this toward the reading log (coming in September) as well.

Math facts (5 minutes) can be practiced with flash cards, fun computer/tablet apps, or Moby Max (coming soon.) Spelling words (5 minutes) can be practiced in many different ways- I am attaching a grid with several ideas. Spelling City is a great way to practice. You can find the link on Mrs.Silverblatt's website (Elementary Technology.)

There is also a "write a letter to the teacher" option which is simply writing at least four complete sentences about the book your child is reading. The third star is optional, but a great way to practice writing skills and earn extra stars.

We will tally our stars each day for a fun Friday reward game. If each student completes at least the reading and skill (spelling and math fact) practice portion, we will easily earn enough for a game.

As a parent, your role is to check that your child completes the star chart (in the home folder) each night and sign it on Thursday night. There's nothing to turn in except for the chart.

In my experience, kids who read at home are most often great readers and creative writers. Kids who practice math facts at home become fluent with facts and can spend their thinking time on more advanced mathematical ideas. It is my hope that students will have more time to develop these important skills with Star Homework.

I will discuss this more in depth at our Curriculum Night on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you have questions, please contact me at [brittaxelsson@bighollow.us](mailto:brittaxelsson@bighollow.us) or 847-740-5321 ext. 4303.

Thank you!

Mrs. Axelsson ☺