

Boulder Elementary School HOMEWORK

Homework supports students' accountability of their learning, time management, and study skills all of which develop the characteristics of successful learners.

Students are encouraged to study for upcoming quizzes and tests as part of their weekly homework assignments when appropriate. All students will participate in weekly English Language Arts and Mathematics assessments on Fridays as well as progress monitoring throughout the week. Additionally, end of chapter and unit tests will be given in Mathematics and Word Work for all students and in Science and Social Studies for intermediate (third through sixth grade) students.

PARENT HOMEWORK TIPS

- ★ Ensure that your child is the one putting brainpower into completing their own homework.
- ★ Review their homework with them to see where they might need additional support.
- ★ Help them with time management and on task behavior.
- ★ It does not support your child's growth to verify completion when assignments were not completed accurately, with quality, and for the appropriate amount of time.



I. ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS: READING FLUENCY & SKILLS

It is your child's goal to read at least 20 minutes every single day outside of school. Research has proven that children grow most as readers when they read books that are not too easy and not too challenging for them. It is our (parents/guardians and teachers) job to support students in choosing books that are their "just right" level.

PRIMARY: Kindergarten – Second Graders

There are four areas of focus for the fluency homework for these grades. Each area gradually increases in difficulty, although your child will be assigned their independent reading level. The four areas are letter name, letter sound, segmenting & blending, and reading fluency.

The fluency pages have a repeated reading leveled passage on the front side and daily assignments are copied on the back. The back-side activities will allow your child to connect fluency with greater comprehension. As your child moves through the levels, they will have a specific comprehension focus each day and will get progressively more complex.

Timed (when appropriate), repeated readings with feedback are one of the best ways to improve students' reading fluency. The key to making this assignment effective is parent provided specific feedback to your child. Each week's assignment has tips for how parents can make the most of the homework.

Your child will be using this time to focus on oral reading and comprehension, specifically accuracy, phrasing, expression, and rate. These four areas focus on sustained attention and

concentration, automatic recognition of most words and word solving skills for unknown words, while keeping an adequate rate with a level of comfort and confidence. Together this supports the goal of developing deep comprehension.

Students will be given a **double-sided fluency sheet each week**. There are **four daily assignments**; students need to **complete ONLY one assignment each night**, Monday through Thursday. Please only complete one assignment per day, even when completing for make-up work.

Remember to read and practice the "Parent Tips" each week printed on the page as they will turn this assignment into an invaluable resource for you and your child as they become fluent readers.

INTERMEDIATE: Third through Sixth Graders

One of the most effective ways to improve reading comprehension for all students is to include quality daily reading review. The fluency and skills reading assignments expose your child to quality reading passages, accompanied by well-written text-dependent questions.

Assignments will be completed digitally using Google Forms. Students complete ONLY one assignment each night, Monday through Thursday. Each week focuses on one passage, giving students the opportunity to read and reread the passage multiple times, increasing fluency and comprehension.

Timed, repeated readings with feedback are one of the best ways to improve students' reading fluency. The key to making this assignment effective is parent provided specific feedback to your child.

After the **students read the passage aloud and record their time**, they will **answer the accompanying text-dependent questions**. Each week has one main focus skill while reviewing other critical reading comprehension standards.

2. ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS: WORD WORK

Students have Word Work daily that is taught using *Words Their Way* curriculum. *Words Their Way* is a teacher-directed, student-centered approach to vocabulary growth and spelling development, whereby students engage in a variety of sound, pattern, and meaning activities, sorting pictures and words.

When students begin a new spelling pattern, they will be given a word list and the date of the test. It is their responsibility to be prepared for the test. They may use Tic-Tac-Toe assignment sheets (primary) or Word Work Menus (intermediate) which are available on the school website. The various activities will not be collected, students are welcome to bring them to school and share with their teachers.

3. MATHEMATICS: FACT FLUENCY & SKILLS

Background Knowledge, or schema, is an essential component of reading comprehension, including, but not limited to, sight words and word-decoding strategies. Mathematics is no

different. Fact Fluency, and the strategies students need to retrieve them, are essential for problem-solving success. Without schema, facts will remain isolated and unconnected.

The goal is for students to use strategies to develop understanding. This understanding will lead to accuracy. Purposeful and meaningful practice, with an attention to precision, will lead to increased automaticity and speed. Fact fluency = understanding (including flexibility + accuracy (attention to precision) + efficiency (strategy, memory, and reasonableness of time).

In addition to fluency games and activities, all students, kindergarten through sixth grade, participate in *Mastering Math Facts*, *Rocket Math*, beginning with writing numerals. It is recommended that students practice their current level for 3-5 minutes daily, supporting their automaticity and success of the program.

Additionally, students may be asked to complete one assignment each day, Monday through Thursday, to solidify new concepts and review concepts taught earlier in the year, spiral review. These assignments may be paper and pencil or digital assignments and will be available in their B.E.E. Books either in the Mathematics section and/or Planners.

4. ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS: WRITING

This year, Boulder Elementary School will have a pet that each student will take home in rotation. When it is your child's turn to take our pet home, they will be asked to take it along with them on their usual after school activities. They can take the pet to sports, do homework together, eat dinner with the family, watch their favorite show, or play.

Before returning the pet and journal, your child needs to write about their day/night with the school pet. Additionally, parents/guardians will need to listen to their child read their current entry aloud as well as at least one other entry from the journal.

We ask that you return the pet and journal in no more than four school days. Entries may include accompanying illustrations as well as printed photographs of students with the pet. Primary students (kindergarten – second grade) may have family members help write while they dictate until they are able to write some or all of the entry independently.

5. MONTHLY RESEARCH PROJECT (PAPER & PRESENTATION)

Each month, **intermediate students** (third through sixth grade) will be asked to complete a research paper & presentation at home that will be shared with the community on the provided due date.

It is essential that the project/presentation be a representation of the students' abilities and efforts. Parents and other family members may complete their own alongside the child to share if they desire. Students must manage their time, using the provided due dates, to produce a high-quality research paper and presentation.

Students will be given the requirements to be kept in their B.E.E. Books. All prep work, ideas, and research that is done throughout the month can be stored behind the assignment in their binder. Additionally, they will be given a grading rubric that will be used as a self-evaluation and teacher-evaluation tool.

6. MONTHLY STEAM FAMILY PROJECTS / PRESENTATIONS

S.T.E.A.M. stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics. These monthly projects are a terrific way to connect to critical higher-level thinking processes between school and home. Projects will vary to promote inductive (inventive) thinking skills that will result in a wide variety of end product designs, to deductive thinking skills that instruct students to create similar products using their choice of designs and materials. As students construct their creations, they are encouraged to plan, test, and improve designs to the best of their ability.

Project instructions will be simple and require nothing more than items around your home, such as paper goods, materials from nature, and basic crafting supplies. Students may design and construct their project on his or her own, or with the assistance of family members. Below are some guided questions that will help families stimulate higher-level S.T.E.A.M. thinking:

- ★ What can your project be used for? What purpose does it serve?
- ★ What problem could your project solve?
- ★ How can you test your project to see how it works?
- ★ How can you improve your project to make it better?

7. INDIVIDUALIZED LEARNING SOFTWARE

Boulder Elementary School has licenses for four individual learning software programs that support the students' growth in English Language Arts and Mathematics. These programs are used during the school day and are available for home use.

Waterford Early Reading Program: Waterford Early Reading is an educational program that uses a variety of technologies to create personalized instruction through games, songs, stories, and other engaging activities to support children to read.

Imagine Learning: Imagine Learning is an adaptive literacy program for preschool through sixth grade students. Through playing games and completing short lessons, students improve foundations skills, and

ST Math: ST (Spatial Temporal) Math is a visual math program that builds a deep conceptual understanding of mathematics through rigorous learning and creative problem solving. The program offers neuroscience-based mathematics instruction with visual animations and game-based learning.

ALEKS Path and QuickTables: ALEKS (Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces) is a web-based math learning system that assesses and works through lessons on various topics at each individual students' learning level. QuickTables is ALEKS' fact mastery program, which offers an interactive Student Module with ongoing assessments, learning, review, and visual tracking.