

HOMEWORK POLICY

PHILOSOPHY OF HOMEWORK

Education is strengthened by the reinforcement of learning activities outside of the school day. Doing homework can help to accomplish this for students.

The purpose of homework can be any of the following:

1. To practice and refine skills so that mastery is achieved.
2. To prepare students for the next class meeting.
3. To extend assignments and to apply learning to a new situation.
4. To create a long-range assignment or project requiring several days or weeks to complete.
5. To make up missed assignments due to absence.

In addition to the above, the staff at John Muir believe that homework helps the child develop responsibility, independence, strong study skills and work habits.

So that children will continue to grow in all areas, students at John Muir will start in grade one to share their school activities at home in simple homework assignments. This responsibility will gradually increase through grade six.

Make a commitment to listen to your child talk about his/her school work and to give your child some time each evening when he/she has your undivided attention.

- Provide a place, with proper supplies, and a regular planned time when your child can study without distractions from TV, telephone, and other siblings.
- Encourage your child to ask questions about the assignment at the time the assignment is made or before he/she leaves school.
- Check with your child to see that the assignment is complete and is his/her best effort.
- Be sure to check with your child frequently on the status of completion of long-term assignments.
- Help your child develop a system or set aside a place for completed homework so that it will be remembered each day.
- Provide your child the opportunity to go to the library or other resource areas in your community.

Kinds of Homework - Homework will be assigned by the teacher to meet individual student needs, therefore, not all children will be assigned homework in all categories.

PRIMARY EXPECTATIONS (Grades 1, 2, 3)

- 1. Read daily.**
- 2. Studying word cards with parents (first grade).**
- 3. Completing unfinished or missed assignments in all subject areas.**
- 4. Studying weekly spelling words.**
- 5. Reading to a parent or another child.**
- 6. Practicing math facts.**
- 7. Preparing projects in science, language arts, social studies, with some parental involvement and supervision.**
- 8. Preparing sharing assignments such as Weekly Star, curriculum emphasis, homeroom sharing.**



INTERMEDIATE EXPECTATIONS (Grades 4, 5, 6)

- 1. Completing unfinished or missed assignments.**
- 2. Studying weekly spelling words, math facts, and other facts to be tested.**
- 3. Reading books and newspapers, discussing content.**
- 4. Studying for tests using notes and study guides.**
- 5. Completing short-range assignments (two or three day assignments), creative writing, science, reading, language arts, book reports.**
- 6. Completing long-range assignments and projects (reports and research).**
- 7. Bringing or gathering materials for projects.**

VACATION HOMEWORK POLICY

Family vacations are special times, but we ask that you please consult the school calendar when making your vacation plans. Student achievement and classroom attendance are positively related. We cannot duplicate what happens in the classroom by only making up written work. Often written work is practice or an extension of what is taught and discussed during the lesson in class. Those assignments that can be completed outside the classroom environment will be accumulated and saved by the teacher for your student. The student will complete them upon their return, at home with parental assistance. Although every effort will be made to see that your child gains the needed learning, teachers are not required to assemble packets for such absences.

The Washington attendance law, the BECCA bill, <http://www.wsipp.wa.gov/rptfiles/BeccaTruancyES.pdf> requires students by law to be in school. This law can apply to elementary school aged students when they are excessively absent even if they are excused. *Washington State law requires that all children, from age 8 to 17, attend school. This law also applies to children ages 6 and 7 if the parent enrolls the child in public school. Regular attendance is a major factor in determining a child's success in school and helping them to perform well academically.* Although missed assignments can be made up, nothing can replace valuable in-class instruction.

We understand that there is the occasional vacation and/or circumstance that take students out of school, but we ask that you think about the repercussions of students missing this time and instruction in class. Missed assignments may be provided following the absence for completion with parent support. Teachers are not expected to create additional assignments or remedial instruction for students who miss school as a result of vacation scheduled during school time.

