

# Homework

## AMOUNT OF HOMEWORK

Pursuant to Montgomery County guidelines, children in elementary school must be assigned homework between 3 and 5 nights per week.

Homework assignments are at the discretion of the individual classroom teacher. Some teachers at Burning Tree assign homework packets on Monday which outline assignments for the week. Other teachers send individual homework assignments on a nightly basis.

## DURATION OF HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

When assigning homework, most teachers have an expectation that the time required to complete the assignment will be reasonable given the developmental stage of the children in each grade. When teachers discuss their expectation as to duration, they refer to active, concentrated homework time (not including snacks and breaks!).

**If you feel that your child has worked diligently for a reasonable, concentrated amount of time and yet has not completed the homework assignment, you may permit your child to stop working and send a note to the teacher advising him/her of your child's effort.**

## COMPLETION OF HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

Completion and submission of homework is the student's responsibility. If your child forgets and leaves an assignment at home, please consider what actions on your part will best build the child's responsibility. We are working to build the habit of homework (both completion and submission). The more the child has the opportunity for "owning" the homework and the entire process, from getting the assignment to turning it in, the more he/she will learn. If the child does not have the homework with him/her on the day it is due, staff will apply natural and logical consequences to encourage responsibility. We do believe that it is the parents' job to know that the child had homework, that it was done, and that it is ready to be returned to school. If your child repeatedly fails to complete or return homework, please talk with his/her teacher about how best to build the child's responsibility. If your child has left completed homework at home, and the teacher has asked the child to call, you may drop off the child's homework at the school office. Please do not bring the homework to the child's classroom.

## PROBLEMS WITH HOMEWORK

If you feel that your child's homework is not appropriate for any reason **SEND A NOTE TO THE TEACHER** setting out your concerns. Please provide specific information about the problem. If you are observing difficulty with homework, your child's teacher wants to know.

For example,

If your child cannot complete the work on his/her own, please send a note to the teacher so that he/she may evaluate the need for further instruction, OR

If you choose to help your child complete a homework assignment, please initial the work to indicate your assistance and send a note to the teacher letting him/her know how much assistance you provided.

### **CONFLICTS WITH SPECIAL EVENTS**

In the event of a special family outing or celebration which makes it impossible for your child to complete a specific assignment on a given night OR in the event of a religious observance which precludes time for homework, **please advise the classroom teacher** so that any necessary accommodation or adjustment of the due date can be made. School staff are extremely sensitive to all religious observances and will not expect homework from your child when it interferes with such observance.

**All questions about homework should be directed to your child's teacher.**