

# *P.A.C.E. Homework Policy*

Dear Family,

The following questions and answers should serve as an overview of our classroom's homework policy. Please review these with your child, sign, and return to school promptly. If you have any questions regarding our classroom's homework policy, please do not hesitate to contact me through email at [smithc@lickingvalley.k12.oh.us](mailto:smithc@lickingvalley.k12.oh.us) or call me at 740-763-2031.

## **What is the purpose of homework?**

Homework, also known as Home Learning, is a very important part of every student's education. Home Learning is an extension of classroom instruction. It provides students with enrichment, practice, and reinforcement of specific skills in order to assist students with mastery. It also teaches students responsibility and helps them develop good study habits that will be useful in the future. Additionally, home learning assignments serve as a basis for further study and preparation for future class assignments.

## **How often is homework assigned?**

Homework will be assigned 2-3 times per week, Monday through Thursday. Homework is usually not assigned over the weekend unless a student is behind and needs to do makeup work. Students are given an agenda in order to write down their homework assignments daily, but it is the student's responsibility to do so. I will not check agendas on a daily basis unless requested by parents. The teacher will review and discuss each assignment students are to complete at the end of each class period. If students have any questions about the homework assignments, they will have the opportunity to ask questions before the end of the school day. Please note that the homework listed in the weekly newsletter does change occasionally depending on schedule changes or how well students grasped concepts in class. If homework changes, I will convey this message to students, but also feel free to contact me if you have questions regarding homework assignments.

## **How long should students spend each night completing homework?**

Students should spend an average of 20-30 minutes a day completing their home learning assignments from P.A.C.E. Students should also spend 20 minutes per day reading at home. Since homework is an extension of skills learned in class, students should be able to complete their assignments independently with little help from the parents, with the exception of special projects that may be assigned from time to time and may require more parental support. If students have a hard time answering a confusing question on their homework assignment, they are encouraged to circle it, put a question mark next to it, and move on. These questions may then be reviewed the following school day in class and students should not stress over them. If you notice that your child is taking more than the average time to complete home learning assignments each night, please feel free to contact me.

## **What are the types of homework assignments given and when are they due?**

Students will receive both written and non-written homework assignments. Non-written assignments are assignments that don't need to be turned in and include: studying for upcoming tests, studying spelling/vocabulary words, studying math facts, and reading every night. It's important that students complete non-written homework as well as written homework. Written homework assignments are assignments that will require students to do some type of writing on paper and **MUST** be done in pencil unless students are told otherwise. These assignments may include answering reading questions, practicing vocabulary and/or spelling, creating a writing piece, completing practice book pages, etc. (basically any assignment in which the student has to give a written answer). All written homework assignments must be completed and returned to school on the following school day unless otherwise noted by the teacher.

Moreover, special projects may be assigned from time to time. These projects may take a few days to complete. In the event of a special project, students will be given the criteria for completing the project along with a timeline and/or due date. Please note that students will still have to complete their weekly homework assignments while they are working on completing a special project. The teacher may adjust the amount of weekly homework assigned as needed while students work on a special project.

### **How are homework assignments collected?**

Homework assignments will be checked and/or collected at the beginning of class on the day they are due. Students are asked to place their homework assignments on top of their desks as part of their routine. Prior to homework being collected or checked, students will have an opportunity to share any questions they had about the assignment. The teacher will review these questions and go over any difficult parts of the homework assignment. Afterwards, the teacher will come around to verify that each student has completed all assignments, record this on a Homework Checklist, and punch Homework On Time (HOT) cards for students who completed their homework.

### **What are the consequences for not completing homework assignments?**

In the event that a student is absent from school, the student will be allowed to turn in completed homework assignments upon their return to school. The student will then receive any homework assignments they missed while they were out upon request. If a student has an excused absence, they will be given one day for each day missed to turn in their completed homework assignments along with any make-up work given.

Students who do not complete homework assignments will be given an opportunity to make up the work on their own time at recess or lunch. If students fail to finish the work at recess or lunch, parents may be notified and students will be asked to complete any unfinished homework the following school night, in addition to any new homework assignments given for that night. It is important for students to recognize and practice responsibility in completing their homework assignments so that they avoid missing recess and having additional homework to complete each night.

Failure to turn in completed homework assignments will also cause students to miss out on getting paid through our classroom economy for turning in completed homework. If students miss one or more days of completed homework assignments they will not be paid \$5 "Smith Bucks" for that week per missing assignment. If a student has 5 or more missing assignments per trimester, detention will also be assigned.

### **What are the rewards for completing homework assignments?**

The most essential rewards in having students complete homework assignments is that they will further enhance their knowledge of skills learned in class, develop great study habits, learn how to be responsible, succeed academically in school, and be successful in their future. In addition to this, students who consistently turn in their completed homework assignments on time every day will receive a punch on their Homework On Time (HOT) cards each day homework is due. After 10 punches on their HOT cards, students will receive a FREE HOMEWORK PASS that will grant them a night free from a homework assignment. Please note that this homework pass may not be used for special projects or special assignments. Students may not use homework passes for graded assignments. In addition to the HOT card incentive, students will earn "Smith Bucks" through our classroom economy every week for turning in their homework assignments on time.

I believe that parents are the key in making homework a positive experience for their children. Therefore, we ask that you make homework a top priority, provide necessary supplies and a quiet environment, provide praise, encouragement, and support, and contact me if you notice a problem. I'm looking forward to an exciting and productive school year.

### **Please sign below and return to school by Friday, August 27, 2021.**

Your signatures below indicate that you have reviewed this homework policy and are informed about our classroom expectations regarding homework assignments.

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher's Name: Mrs. Smith

I have read and understood the Homework Policy of your classroom.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_