



The Nature Academy – Homework- Heads-Ups for Parents

Language Arts

Spelling/Roots: Weekly spelling and roots homework, including writing sentences, creating flash cards, and taking a spelling pretest. Weekly tests include spelling and **cumulative** assessment of word

roots and their definitions. Spelling is not cumulative.

Generally, homework is assigned on Monday and collected on the following Monday.

Generally, tests are administered on Mondays.

Independent Reading: Nightly reading of books of their **choice**. To compliment the regular time spent reading independently in class, students must read books of their choice. Students should read thirty minutes each night, and should total a minimum of 100 pages weekly (average pages would be 250). Once every 3-4 weeks, students will write a letter-essay in response to their choice book reading. Instructions for writing letter-essays are glued to the inside front cover of their literature logs. Step-by-step directions for writing letter-essays are available on the website as well as samples of student letter-essays. Students should read one book about medieval world (as well as European Renaissance/Reformation/ Exploration) history and one that is science-related each trimester. Please approve your child's book choice!

Class Reading: Responses to novels read in class (*Freak the Mighty*, *Touching Spirit Bear*, etc.) often take the form of answering questions, completing projects, and writing formal essays related to the texts. I read just about everything aloud to students to help model good reading skills. (Also, it's nice to be read to...)

Writing: Students are required to write several essays and creative pieces throughout the year. Essays generally fall into two categories: those that are written "on-demand" in class and those that are begun in class and written mostly at home. Later in the year we will engage in a "writing workshop" where students choose their own topics and have some flexibility for due dates.

Grammar/Mechanics/Conventions: Students will review conventions of standard written English through daily language exercises and in-depth studies pulled from student writing. Watch the action list for test dates!

Social Studies/History

Maps: Students will label and color maps of continents, countries, and areas pertinent to our study of medieval (and renaissance) world history. Maps require lots of time; much is provided in class.

Notebook: Students will maintain a notebook for most social studies assignments. This year we'll review the medieval Arabia/Islamic World, Medieval China, Medieval Japan, Medieval Africa, esp. Ghana & Mali, medieval Europe, Maya/Aztec/Incan civilizations, and the European Renaissance, Reformation, Exploration, and Enlightenment.

Traditionally, the European Renaissance has been a special focus for us- we already have a Renaissance Celebration Day planned (and on Melissa's credit card-EEK!) We'll be at Highlands Park and will culminate with an interactive simulation and study of the European Renaissance.

PE/ Health

- PE grades are based on dressing out and participating. Help get the clean uniform to school!
- Health Tips occur weekly. Students must respond to each health tip in health logs. Encourage your child to share health tips with you! Health tips will generally take place on Mondays and will generally need to be downloaded from the website.

Math 2 – General Math

- Nightly homework where students must **SHOW THEIR WORK**. Checking the answers with a Correction Books (checked out if asked for) is most helpful. Please encourage your child to rework missed problems, copying from the correction book if necessary.
- All problems must be worked in the student's math notebook. Do not tear out pages.
- Homework is "flashed" for credit at the beginning of the class. If your child has questions on a particular problem, it should be written on the blackboard for review.
- This year students in Math 2 and Algebra have math study time with Ms S either right before or right after instruction so they can ask questions/begin HW.
- Beginning after lesson 10, tests generally occur after every five lessons. Tests are cumulative.
- Please note that "Mixed Practice" homework problems have the number of the lesson in parenthesis directly below the number of the problem. Explanations and examples of that type of problem are given in that lesson!

Math 3 – Pre-Algebra

- John Kiersted has the details. Generally similar to Math 2 except for class time with Ms Stockton.

Algebra

- Nightly selected homework problems where students must **SHOW THEIR WORK**
- All problems must be worked in the student's math notebook. Do not tear out pages.
- Homework is "flashed" for credit at the beginning of the class.
- Beginning after lesson 10, tests generally occur after every five lessons. Tests are cumulative.
- Please note that "Mixed Practice" homework problems have the number of the lesson in parenthesis directly below the number of the problem. Explanations and examples of that type of problem are given in that lesson!
- Be aware that Mr M is "Math Happy" as labeled by past students. He agrees. ☺

Science

Homework will vary depending on our unit of study. Much of what we do is done in class. It can be difficult to make-up missed classwork as we share materials/equipment with the MS Science Dept. This year we will focus on physical sciences. Among other fun things, your child will have the opportunity to build a mousetrap car or Rube Goldberg contraption this year!

Action Projects

- Community Action Projects are a part of giving back to the wider world. Students will be working in teams on projects of their choice. Last year students adopted coral reefs, raised money for the homeless, worked towards restoring the stage in Fall Creek, upgraded the Disc Golf Course, and did all the groundwork for selling their own brand of bottled water to send funds to third world countries. We look forward to many more wonderful projects this year. More info. will come home as we begin making a difference.

Other

- Remember, we both need and appreciate your help. All parents are expected to help out at least one hour/week- in or out of class. Some parents have already exceeded their hours for the year, while some have yet to get started!

Several parents have volunteered to help score student work. Please drop Melissa an email- let her know which days are good to come in and work for an hour or so or what days would work to come in and pick up a group of health journals or history notebooks. Don't worry, as a rule we ask parents to score work with distinct right/wrong answers and we always provide a key as appropriate!

- Remember to encourage your child to practice his/her keyboarding skills! So far, nearly half the class has met the standard!

Melissa email: mstockton@slvusd.org

Carter's email: cmilhous@slvusd.org