

Dear Parents,

There had been much local and national discussion regarding the effectiveness and appropriateness of homework. The Educational Excellence School Advisory Council (**EESAC**) Committee of Bent Tree Elementary School, comprised of administrators, teachers, parents and community partners, discussed the current homework policy as requested by the district. The ESSAC committee researched the effectiveness of our current homework policy and drafted a revised homework policy specifically designed for Bent Tree Elementary School.

We believe that successful homework assignments engage students in purposeful, relevant learning that meets their academic needs. Homework learning activities help students understand concepts, develop thinking skills, and focus on applying their new knowledge. Regular homework also provides your child with opportunities for developmental practice, drill, the application of skills already learned, the development of independent study skills, enrichment activities, and self-discipline.

The recommended minutes include assignments for all subject areas and teachers **collectively per school day:**

<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Total Daily Time</u>
• Kg – First	30 minutes written + minimum of 30 minutes reading
• Second – Third	45 minutes written + minimum of 30 minutes reading
• Fourth – Fifth	60 minutes written + minimum of 30 minutes reading

The revised policy also includes the following points:

- All student projects will have a rubric communicating the expectations of quality for the project. A scoring rubric will be used to promote consistency and delineate the criteria for grading as well as the performance expectations for the designed assignment.
- Homework assignments given to students will be directly related to the current classroom instruction and activities.
- Homework assignments given to students will be clearly understood and achievable independently by the student.
- Homework assignments will be reviewed by the teacher or discussed in class.
- Consideration will be given to the impact of homework on family time and for differences in the time required to complete homework assignments by students of varying capabilities.
- Teachers in the said grade levels will discuss homework assignments to ensure that a said grade level does not receive excessive homework assignments at the same time.
- Homework will look different at the various grade levels and will look different throughout the year, depending on the classroom curriculum and student needs.
- Individual classroom teachers will explain in more detail at Open House what homework will look like in your child's classroom. **Open House, will be forthcoming**
- Reading for pleasure on a nightly basis should be strongly encouraged.
- Parents and students will review and initial the 2024-2025 Homework Contract for Bent Tree Elementary. See the next page to complete the Homework Contract and return to school by Friday, August 16, 2024. Return page 4 and maintain pages 1-3 for your records.
- An electronic copy of the Homework Policy will be placed on the school's website.

We are confident this revised policy will make homework assignments more meaningful and purposeful and support the district's goal of engaging our students in quality learning.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (305) 221-0461.

Sincerely,

Emily Falcon
Principal

Parent/Student Homework Contract

The below guidelines specifically address the protocols and procedures for Homework and should not be confused with classwork. Classwork assignments are grading in accordance of the Miami Dade County Public School Student Progression Plan.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Use the assignment notebook and/or student planner to keep a record of all assignments, tests, and other responsibilities. Collect the necessary materials (books, worksheets, etc.) needed to complete the assignments.
- Ask questions and seek help from teachers if confused about the assignment or any part of the work.
- Be responsible for completing and returning all assignments on time to the teacher. This includes making up homework when absent. Follow all expected standards of quality concerning heading, neatness, content and directions.
- Budget time wisely and share assignments, especially on long-range assignments with parents/guardians.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Contact teacher early if the student begins to develop a pattern of late or incomplete work.
- Contact the teacher to clear up any misunderstandings, troubleshoot problems and be better informed about the students' learning progress.
- Ask teacher about parent workshops and/or online tutorials available to help them understand the skill being taught to better assist their child with home-learning assignments.
- Assist children in setting up a regularly scheduled homework time at a reasonable hour each day. See that he/she meets that daily commitment. Allow sufficient time for homework even though children may also be involved in family and community activities (sports, scouts, dance, arts, etc.)
- Check the assignment notebook daily and encourage completion of all homework. Please remember that the homework is the child's responsibility. Parents should not do the work for the child(ren) but should encourage accountability and monitor student efforts to show support. This applies to daily and long-range assignments and projects.
- Encourage children to have an organized approach to homework by providing all needed materials.

TEACHER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Be sure all assignments are created with a clear purpose and students can complete them independently.
- Coordinate assignments and tests with other teachers to avoid student overload.
- Inform parents/guardians in writing regarding teacher expectations and student responsibilities at the beginning of the school year.
- Modify assignments to meet student needs, as necessary.
- Prepare students to do the assignments (explain tasks and directions, teach study skills, etc.)
- Given meaningful homework and provide students with prompt feedback on their assignments.
- Consider participation in school-wide events, religious holidays, etc. in giving assignments.
- Inform parents/guardians of long-term assignments and expected timelines for completion.
- Teach and encourage students to use an assignment notebook or student planner and check it regularly to ensure effective use of this tool.
- Set up a system for addressing late or incomplete assignments and communicate it clearly in written form to students and parents/guardians at the beginning of the school year.

GRADING OF HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

Grades (K – 5) daily homework assignments are not formally graded and reflected in report card grades. Concerns will be reflected under the Effort sections on the report cards.

Parent/Student Homework Contract

REQUESTING HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS WHEN STUDENTS ARE ABSENT

Students are occasionally absent from school due to personal illness, medical appointments, family emergencies, a death in the family, religious observance, etc.

If the parent/guardian believes the child can do work during the absence, the assignments must be requested by 9:00 AM. Parents/guardians are asked to indicate if the work is to be sent home with another child (suggest name) or picked up in the office at dismissal time. Teachers will do their best to compile all assignments before the end of the school day. In the event, that time does not permit, parents must allow 24 hours for teachers to compile such assignments.

Miami Dade County Public Schools discourages the practice of families taking children out of school for an extended time for vacations or recreational trips. Since homework is both an extension and a reinforcement of class work, it is not as effective when done as an isolated exercise. Teachers also find it difficult to accurately project exactly what will be taught during a child's extended absence. It is difficult to predict how concepts will be grasped and content understood by the group in advance of the actual lessons.

Thus, formal homework assignments will not be prepared in advance for extended absences. General suggestions for reinforcing reading, math, spelling and writing skills may be made in lieu of specific homework tasks. The specific assignments will be gathered during the period of absence and provided to the child upon his/her return to school. The child will be given a reasonable period to complete the assignments.

COMMUNICATION

For students to be able to achieve the intended goals of homework assignments, communication between students, parents and teachers is essential. The following procedures are suggested:

- At the beginning of the school year the Homework Guidelines for Bent Tree Elementary School will be distributed to all parents. Parents and teachers will be asked to review the guidelines and expectations with students.
- Open House will provide parents an additional opportunity for presentation, review and clarification of the Homework Guidelines between teachers and parents.
- At the beginning of the school year, individual teachers will inform parents in writing of all homework expectations and procedures at the grade level and in their classrooms.
- Parents are urged to contact their child's teacher when there are concerns about homework.
- In grades in which they are used, student assignment notebooks or student planners are useful tools for parents and teachers to communicate in writing as needed.
- Parent signatures on homework, tests or other student work may be required to facilitate communication between home and school. Parent cooperation is necessary with this requirement.

Student: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Student Homework Contract

Grade of Student: (Select 1) Pre-K K 1 2 3 4 5

Homeroom Teacher: _____ ID#: _____

This Homework Policy was developed as a guide for students and parents and to answer commonly asked questions that come up during the school year. Our goal is to create a positive educational atmosphere of learning where rules are enforced firmly, fairly, and consistently to all students.

We ask that you familiarize yourself with our Homework Policy by reading it and ask that you sign this page as evidence that you are aware of our Homework Policy uniquely designed for Bent Tree Elementary School.

We have reviewed the Homework Policy for Bent Tree Elementary School. It is our pleasure and esteemed honor to partner with Bent Tree Elementary School to ensure that our students receive quality instructional practices to be successful.

Signing below is evidence that parents and students have read and understand the contents and guidelines of Homework Policy specifically designed for Bent Tree Elementary School.

Signature of the Parent/Guardian

Date

Signature of Student

Date

Please review, sign and return Page 4 to school. Maintain pages 1-3 for your records.