

## Homework

Homework is the extra practice that is crucial in helping students master the skills that they learn in class. We would like to thank you in advance for the support, encouragement, and occasional "mother/father bear" stares you will be lavishing upon your children.

Language Arts (Spelling/Writing) and Math Homework Packets will go home on Thursdays and are due back the following Thursday.

Unfinished class work may also be sent home as homework. In addition, there will be 1 - 2 book reports per quarter and some other larger-scale projects that will need to be done at home- we will keep you posted for each project regarding how much parental involvement is acceptable.

## Grades

You will be able to access grades through Infinite Campus again this year.

We will work off the following scale:

90 - 100% = A

80 - 89% = B

70 - 79% = C

60 - 69% = D

Below 60% = Failing

## Snack

Students are encouraged to bring a **nutritious snack** to eat each morning at 10:45ish; we will be using our 15 minute window between specials and math so it also needs to be a "Working Snack" that can be eaten neatly in our classrooms. Please be forewarned that all cookies and the like will need to be saved for lunch.

Some great examples of healthy snacks include the following:

Fruits (bananas, grapes, etc)

Vegetables (carrot sticks, celery sticks)

Crackers (non-greasy like Graham Crackers or Goldfish)

Granola Bars

Pretzels

Students are also encouraged to have a water bottle with a lid that seals tightly. Only water will be allowed in class- please do not send beverages that create a stain factor or sugar challenges.

Also, it should be noted that to avoid hurt feelings and triggering allergies, there will be no sharing of snacks. Now we know that the world turns a little too quickly some mornings and that forgotten snacks can be a casualty of this occurrence, so we are requesting Healthy Snack Donations that we can stockpile for such emergencies.

## **Lunch Tickets**

One of the privileges of being a 4<sup>th</sup> grader is increased responsibility. Therefore, our students will be in charge of their own lunch tickets; the burden is also on their shoulders to make sure that their card gets punched by us and that they receive a lunch stamp on their wrist in the morning when we make the "Who is buying lunch call." Each class will have its own unique method, but the theme of responsibility remains the same.

## **Planners**

Planners are one of our ways of communicating with you. In 4<sup>th</sup> grade, planners must be initialed by a parent/guardian **each day**- this is also an exercise for our students to make sure that each day at home they are staying on top of their studies.

## **Newsletter**

This year we will continue to be paperless!!! If you wish to receive a hard copy of the Newsletter each week in your child's Friday Folder, please notify us as soon as possible.

## **Volunteers**

Our volunteers are one of our greatest resources here at Carbon Valley. There are a number of ways to help, such as assisting in the classroom, donating supplies, accompanying us on field trips, or taking home materials to prepare for our class. The CVA Preschool is always in need of assistance with take-home projects as well. Please let us know what you are interested in helping out with.

## **Boatman Bucks/McBucks**

Our goal is to help in the raising of a generation of students that develop a passion for learning and are motivated by that passion. We also know that sometimes we all need a bit of a nudge, or carrot at the end of a stick, to find and grow into our passions- plus sometimes a good celebration of a job or deed well-done is called for. So, we will be using what we will call "Boatman Bucks" and "McBucks" as a way of encouraging and celebrating with our students. At the end of each week, students will be able to use these bucks (or save and hoard them) for various prizes (like nifty pens or stickers) or privileges (such as lunch with one of us and a friend in our classroom or a special chair to sit in for a day).

## **Behavior Plan/Guidance**

The school motto at Carbon Valley Academy is "Work Hard. Be Nice." In addition to this, there are nine character traits that we hold close at heart and hand- these are responsibility, patriotism, courage, perseverance, friendship, compassion, honesty, work ethic, and respect. It is our commitment to the ideas behind these words that play a crucial role in defining our school and setting it apart.

In promoting the character growth that is both part of growing up, and is demanded by a commitment to our nine character traits, we will be guided by the philosophy from the book *Teaching with Love and Logic*. This approach has four key principles.

### **Enhancement of Self-Concept**

A discipline situation is an opportunity for a student to gain self-esteem by helping them to figure out that they have the skills to repair the harm they have done and to make sure that it is not repeated.

### **Shared Control**

As teachers and parents, we are always trying to have our students and children become more responsible by giving them increased control over their own lives. This way they can learn to make the wisest choice for themselves sooner rather than later. This principle calls on us to take only the amount of control that we feel is needed for the situation.

### **Consequences with Empathy**

To take the life lessons provided by our classrooms to heart, students need to experience the consequences of their behavior- consequences served with empathy tends to speed up that process.

### **Shared Thinking**

Students should do as much of the thinking and problem-solving of a situation as possible and be involved in the decisions that affect their lives.

This philosophy is more of a process, more of an opportunity for growth, than a pre-determined formula for classroom missteps. We'd like to stress that this is a philosophy that puts more responsibility on the student, allows us to spend more time teaching, and creates a learning community that is increasingly self-motivated, respectful of others, and adept at being a valuable member of any kind of community. Please know that this is not a "soft" system in any way, shape or form- if anything, it demands a good deal more work on the student's end.

### **Community Service**

In addition, for lighter missteps (talking at the wrong time, not paying attention, and the like) we have community service. Community service involves doing an extra clean-up job (sometimes lunchroom duty) to make amends to our community for making a bad choice that affected our entire class.

As always, our communicating with you is a crucial piece of the plan as well- we will keep in touch with you via e-mail, phone calls, and walk-bys when we see you around the school. Please feel free to contact us at any time with any questions or concerns!