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Independent reading is a vital part of our reading program. Students are expected to have a book that they read on their own with them at all times. We expect them to read at home on their own every evening. Students will be provided with a Harmony Reads Log to keep track of the title, author, call number, and date they finish a book. The goal of this program is to help students become more familiar with the library and introduce them to a variety of genres, authors, and curriculum related books. We require students to read a minimum of **FIVE books every nine-week period**. Each quarter students will read **3 fiction books and 2 nonfiction books.** (One of the fiction books can be the class novel for the month. Chat n Chew books can also count.) Students will keep a mini book summary/reflection in their Reading Response Journals on each book prior to recording it on their Harmony Reads Log. This year the Harmony reads log is in your student’s planner for easy tracking.

Harmony Reads

A total of 20 books are required for the year to complete the Harmony Reads Program and receive a certificate. Teachers will collect the reading log at the end of every quarter for a reading grade.

Bi-weekly encourage your learner to read aloud to you or a sibling at their level or below their level. This will increase oral fluency.

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How Parents Can Help

**Homework & Planners:**

* Look over daily and ask about learning taking place.
* Expect your student to clarify and communicate about key concepts covered.
* Check over homework, if there is a mistake point it out and go over it together. You can guide your student when needed- as long as the student is doing the work. (If questions still remain encourage your learner to come to school the next day and clarify with the teacher.)
* Send a sticky note on the HW assignment if after working through the assignment together your learner still isn’t grasping it. I’ll follow up with the student at school the next day.

**Every Day for your Child:**

* Encourage
* Maintain High Expectations- Keep them realistic!
* Hold him/her accountable for Actions & Choices
* Actively Participate
* Communicate with teacher when necessary
* Stay Positive!
* Have FUN!

Thanks for joining me in this partnership with your child!

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Homework

**Daily Homework is:**

* to provide practice and a chance to make sense of the ideas presented & taught in the class
* a useful study guide for quizzes and tests
* an individual effort
* due at the beginning of class the day after it is assigned, unless otherwise specified
* The work quality is important: neatness & accuracy count!

**Weekly Homework:**

* **Math** 🡪
  + Homework that goes along with the in class lesson will be assigned approximately 3-4 times a week as well.
* **Reading** 🡪30 minutes every day- Remember Harmony Reads!
* **Other🡪** Unfinished daily work, Incomplete work, Additional Homework Assignments

**Late Homework:**

It is important that students do homework so that they have the extra practice on key skills learned in class. If students do not have the homework on the day it is due, it will be logged in the late assignment book along with the reason and a **10% deduction** to the grade will be taken. This will be kept track of throughout the year. Missing work is NOT an option. Repeated late homework may require students to use their recess or team time to complete missing assignments. It may also be necessary to schedule a conference with the parent, student and teacher so that a plan for success can be put into action for the learner.

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Classroom Expectations

* **Be Prompt**
  + Students are expected to arrive in class and be in their seats at 8:35 a.m. This is especially important with specials starting at 8:50.
* **Be Prepared**
  + All students should come to class prepared to participate. This means bringing all homework, supplies, and materials.
* **Be Polite & Respectful of Yourself & Others**
  + We are a community of learners. Often we will work together in groups. This environment depends on mutual respect among students.
* **Be Positive**
  + Students are more likely to learn and grow if they maintain a positive attitude about learning opportunities at HES.
* **Put Forth Your Best Effort**
  + It is important for each individual student to always do his or her BEST. Including work quality on all assignments.
* **Be Safe**
  + Students will need to conduct themselves in a way that does not put others in danger.
* **Have Fun Learning**
  + Enthusiasm for learning goes a long ways. ☺

I am proactive and do not foresee major behavior issues. Each problem-solving situation will be handled privately with the student. Parents will become involved when necessary.

**Team Time**

**What is it?**

* A time for teammates who display virtues to participate in a team building activity (such as a game, problem solving activity, or art project.)

**When is it?**

* 30 minutes every other Friday afternoon.

**Who participates?**

* Students who demonstrate virtues:
  + **Respect**- Treat **ALL** students and adults the way you want to be treated.
  + **Responsibility**- Homework and schoolwork are completed accurately and turned in on time. Students are prepared for class with supplies.
  + **Compassion**- Kind, considerate, and forgiving. Helps those in need.
  + **Self-Discipline**- Allows others around them to learn. Makes wise choices.
  + **Honesty**- Always truthful. Genuine and sincere.
  + **Courage**- Stands up for self and others. Makes wise choices.
  + **Perseverance**- Put forth your best effort 100% of the time, even when things are challenging.
  + **Cooperative**- Helps others and is a team player. Works to resolve conflicts.

**How does this work?**

* Students are given a “3 strikes, you’re out” rule with following directions, behavior, homework completion, getting their planner signed, etc.
* Once students have received their third strike they will spend Team Time in the dugout.
* Students who are consistently not completing work on time will use Team Time to complete it and reflect.
* Students may need to complete a Think Sheet

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Communication

“And each agreed they would fail if each had worked alone. For behind the parent, stood the school and behind the teacher, the home.”

– excerpt from I Dreamed…

* **Daily Communication:**
  + Planners- Students complete their planner daily and then take them home to refer to for homework. Parent signature is required each night at the beginning of the year.
* **Weekly Communication:**
  + Go Folders: All student work for the week will come home in their Go Folder (binder). Please look over all assignments in the Go Folder. *(Students need to correct papers that are below a 70% for an improved grade. If teacher assistance is needed, have your learner bring it back and set up a time to work with me one-on*-*one.)*
* **Progress Reports:**
  + Progress Reports will no longer be sent home, however you will have access to grades on-line daily. These are updated at least once a week. Please log-on weekly with your learner to make sure that assignments are kept up on.
* **Report Cards:**
  + Online quarterly.
* **Fall Parent Teacher Conferences:**
  + I will meet with every student and parent together the week of October 24th. All conferences will last a maximum of 20 minutes. Please be prompt, so that we stay on schedule.
* **Spring Conferences:** These are optional and on an as needed basis the week of February 13th.
* **Open Communication at all times:**

We are a team working together for your student if at any time you have a concern or question please call and/or e-mail and we can set up a time to meet together. Let’s always keep your child at the center!

**My E-mail Address:** [**kmneal@bluevalleyk12.org**](mailto:kmneal@bluevalleyk12.org)