April 12, 2017

Dear Parents,

Over the past few months I have been looking into the positive and negative effects of homework at the elementary level. I have talked with several teachers, and read over a dozen articles on both sides of the issue and feel that a change is in order. Here is what I am proposing. Beginning this week and for the remainder of the school year, the only work your child will be asked to do at home will be to complete any unfinished work from the day and read! Students will be provided more than enough time each day to complete their work. This should help to almost eliminate any need to complete work at home.

This new plan does not include preparing for tests or working on a project related to a concept being taught in class. The only thing that I will ask your child to continue to do each night is read. They can alternate between the book they're reading for Literature Circles and a pleasure book or make up their own plan. Reading, more than any other skill helps strengthen the foundation for all future learning. One of the articles I read during break says:

"The amount of free reading done outside of school has consistently been found to relate to growth in vocabulary, reading comprehension, verbal fluency, and general information (Anderson, Wilson, and Fielding 1988; Greaney 1980; Guthrie and Greaney 1991; Taylor, Frye, and Maruyama 1990)."

The goal of this change, is to provide you and your child more time to do those things that have a proven track record of creating success in elementary students. For instance, Read, Read, and Read some more. Eating dinner as a family and being able to enjoy your time together. Playing outdoors and being active after a day of intense learning. Getting to bed early and getting plenty of rest.

I hope you see a dramatic change both in excitement about school and just a less stressed child for the next 7 weeks. If you have any questions about this new change, please feel free to contact me either by email or drop in and speak to me in person.

Mr. Brewer