

September 11th 2019

Dear families,

 Today is your student’s first official experience with the Wolfpack way of doing homework. We have already done their first project (ask them why the Wolfpack is a good name for our class!) This will help students understand what is expected in terms of time management and content. I wanted to lay out some of the key information about the way in which I want to approach homework in class.

Deadlines

My approach to homework is based on the fact that families have busy schedules, so I felt that daily homework that couldn’t be completed for reasons beyond your student’s control was unfair. **Homework will be set on Thursdays and due in class the following Wednesday**. I will discuss each task in class and answer all questions. There are some guidance on each sheet to help students to manage their time and get their work completed on time. I will also check in with them each day for the first few projects to help them build their self-organizational skills. Some pointers here:

* I highly encourage them to look at their homework task sheet before Tuesday night. We will always discuss it in class on Thursdays, and I will always make time to help people who are stuck or don’t get it ahead of time. **I will not accept “I didn’t get it so I didn’t do it” as a reason for non-completion.**
* I set the homework, so I should deal with any fall out or disagreements. **If your student refuses to work, or does the work to a poor standard, let them.** They will catch up and improve work with me in school. I do not want homework to become a battleground at home. If a student has not completed their work on time, they will do it during the school day (on top of their other work), and will have one less day the following to complete the new task (i.e. it will be due Tuesday instead of Wednesday).
* There may be times when even a week is not long enough. This includes family emergencies and vacations. In these situations, **I am always happy to grant extensions if you send a note or email ahead of time explaining what’s going on.** Please try to contact me before Wednesday to avoid any confusion.
* Each week’s homework (along with any supporting information and videos) will be posted online at [www.4wisamazing.weebly.com/homework](http://www.4wisamazing.weebly.com/homework) so you can access if it gets lost. OVER

Helping

All of the projects that your student will be asked to work on are ones that can and should be completed as independently as possible. My purpose for setting homework is so that it is something that either consolidates prior learning from class, stretches our current learning or gets us ready for a new topic. If you feel that your student needs help, use these tips:

* **The most important help you can provide is during the Evaluation Phase.** Have your student show you what they’ve produced, and give them 2 pieces of positive feedback (things that you like) and 1 thing that you think they could improve on. Encourage them to act on your feedback and come back with improvements.
* If the project requires research, encourage them to reword or paraphrase what they’ve find, and remind them of the importance of **citing their sources** (telling where they found the information). Where possible, encourage them to use a variety of sources (books, people, the library) as well as the internet.
* **Make a plan on Thursday night with them about when they are going to tackle each part of the homework.** This might become a routine that you follow each week, or it can be more flexible to meet your family’s needs. Hold them accountable to their plan, but don’t punish them for not following it. The natural consequences for this will happen at school.
* I do not expect you to spend amything on resources for the homework. If your student wants to go all out for a project and you’re happy helping them with the resources; great. **I have a classroom’s worth of art supplies and materials that I am more than happy to share,** providing that I get the returnable items back in the same condition they left. As above, please encourage your student to ask for help with resources way ahead of time.
* I do not have a printer in my home, so I will never expect you to print things for your student’s homework. **If they do decide that they need something printed and you need help, please let me know and I can use the school’s resources to help.**

This is the 4th year I have been running homework like this here at Bakie, so it is always a work in progress. I truly appreciate your feedback, both positive and things that I need to work on. You can always reach me by email (bwolfson@sau17.net) or through a note in your child’s home folder. Thanks and I hope you enjoy watching the homework process this year

Mr Wolfson