

# Homework in Room 203

When I first started teaching, I gave my students individualized homework packets and spent hours grading them. If only I had known then what I know now! Believe it or not, research shows that homework is actually **not** as valuable as we once thought! In fact, how much homework students are given does not factor into how successful they will be in college (or the workforce) and can even have a negative impact on a student's self-esteem and attitude towards school and learning. Yikes! So what do concerned parents and teachers do?

First of all, some types of homework are more valuable than others. The number one **best** thing you can have your student do is spend time reading **every day**. That's it. Here are just a few of the benefits of reading:

- Increases vocabulary
- Enriches language skills
- Improves concentration and focus
- Increases knowledge
- Develops imagination and creativity
- Activates and exercises multiple areas of the brain
- Increases empathy
- Improves writing skills
- Decreases stress

With that in mind, **the only homework your second grader must do is read 20 minutes most days.** In your child's Monday folder, you will find a calendar for September. Every day that your child reads, you will mark the number of minutes read on that day and initial it. At the end of the month, your student will turn the calendar in. For every 10 minutes read, your child will receive 1 Bear Buck to spend at our second grade Market Days. A student who reads 432 minutes, for example, earns 43 Bear Bucks. It's that simple!

Here are the different ways your child may earn time on their calendar:

- Listen to an adult read a story
- Read out loud to an adult
- Read out loud to a younger sibling or pet
- Read silently by themselves
- Take turns reading (you read a section, they read a section)

I have also included a handy bookmark in the Monday Folder that gives you some tips for helping your child during this time. Please let me know if you have any questions!

Sincerely,

*Mrs. Goulding*