

## Math Homework Procedures:

The reason I am **particular about work being done a certain way** is because I'm not just teaching the students how to solve problems, I'm teaching ways of doing math that will help your child in later years. **The process is more important than the answers right now.** Your child may be able to do the work in their head, but that's not important. It's important for them to learn the process so they can do the work when it's more difficult and cannot be done in their heads.

Math was my concentration in college and I've taken numerous math courses, therefore I know that there are certain procedures which will greatly benefit your child if they learn those methods now. I've tutored middle school, high school, and college students in math, and I use the same methods with the older students that I use with fourth and fifth graders (obviously, the work is much easier in fourth and fifth). **If your child can get used to and use these processes now, when the work is easier, they will be able to understand it when the work becomes more difficult.**

Math homework will be **assigned daily** (except on the day before and day of a test), and the students will often be given time to begin it in class; how much time depends on how long it took to teach that particular topic. This will give me an opportunity to check on the students to see if they understand the new concepts.

**Students must always show their work** unless directed otherwise (ex: mental math). They must do the work the way we do it in class. **They have to do all of the steps they have in their notes.** Your child should do their homework with their notes, so they do it correctly. If they do not do the work as I have instructed them to, points will be taken off. Showing work is consistent with older grades and the NY State Regents Exam requirements. It's also an important step in learning how to do math well. Students must always write the original problem before doing any work.

**If your child doesn't understand something, have them do their best using their notes from class and hand it in.** They'll get a chance to ask questions when they correct it. You can, of course, help them, however, sometimes it's more helpful for you to let them do their homework alone, then help them with their corrections. This way you and I can both see what they actually understand on their own.

## Math Corrections:

Math homework must be **done completely and neatly on separate paper** (unless I tell them otherwise). Their paper should have a proper heading and be **stapled on top** of the math homework sheet. The staple should be in the **upper left corner** so I can read the back easily.

Since math concepts often take time and practice to sink in, I give students the opportunity to **correct their work** and improve their grade. This is required because it helps them immensely, since when they correct their mistakes, they learn what they did wrong and learn not to do it again on a test or a quiz. Students who keep up with corrections do significantly better on tests and quizzes than students who fall behind or who do not do corrections.

**Don't be discouraged** if your child has to do a lot of corrections. They're learning a lot of new material and it's not easy at first, which is why I give the opportunity for work to be corrected.

**All corrections are due a week after the assignment was originally due. That means that any corrections or missing work not done within a week will keep the original grade, not the higher grade.** Your child will still have to correct the work, however, they will not get the new grade if it's not done within a week of being due. It is in the child's best interest to get the work done immediately, so

they'll understand what they did wrong and not continue to make the same mistakes on other assignments or on tests and quizzes that might come up before the correction is due. Additionally, they'll likely have to correct most homework assignments, so if they wait, they will accumulate, especially as sometimes a student may have to correct their work more than once, if it is still wrong.

**It's usually best to do corrections on the original homework page**, but sometimes it's better to do them on a separate piece of paper (but only if the original assignment is completely wrong or if it's illegible). If this is the case, a full heading must be included on the new page, and that page must be stapled to the original homework assignment. This way I can see what they got wrong, plus I can give them the new grade.

### **Math Homework Grading:**

**If work isn't done on time**, the student *must* hand it in the **next day** in order to get, at most, an 80% (the highest possible grade if it's done completely). **If not, it will be a zero.** The work still has to be done. If a student **misplaces the original assignment** that needs to be corrected, they can redo the entire assignment to get up to an 80%, or they can leave the grade as it is.

I will **grade the homework** based on a percentage of how many questions were right, divided by how many questions were assigned. Ex: 10 questions means they're worth 10 points each.

On the homework paper, a grade will be written. If it is not a 100%, it will have a grade, then "CWB" (meaning "Corrected Will Be") and then another grade, which is the highest possible grade your child can have when they correct the assignment.

**The highest possible grade is a 100%**, *if* the student doesn't skip problems, shows all of the steps as shown in the notes, follows directions, and labels the answers. **For fourth graders, starting in the second quarter, if parts are missing, points will be deducted from the highest possible new grade.** Since **fifth graders** have had me before, **this will start right at the beginning of the year** for them.

Therefore, a student can do all of the work and steps but make careless mistakes or not understand something, and they can still correct the work up to a 100%. (For the first quarter, the fourth grade students can always correct their work up to 100% unless they have to redo the assignment.)

**However, if they skip problems, don't follow directions, don't do all the steps required from the notes, or things like that, they will lose points on their overall maximum grade.**

Example: Say there are ten problems. The student forgot to read the directions on one question, so that is five points off, and they didn't show work on one question, so that is five points off. They got 3 questions wrong. That's a 70% (7 right out of 10) minus the ten points off previously mentioned, so they get a 60% on that assignment. If they correct it, the highest grade they can get is a 90% because of the things they didn't do that were required (follow directions, show work). Those 10 points were subtracted from 100%, so the page will say, "60% cw 90%."

### **Grades on RenWeb:**

The lower grade will be entered into **RenWeb**, along with a ".1" after the number grade, which means it needs to be corrected. **When the correction has been completed**, I will write OK on the paper, the new grade will be entered, and the ".1" removed (a ".0" will be there instead because that's the default). Using the example above, the grade entered into RenWeb will be "60.1" and when the assignment has been corrected, the grade will change to "90.0". This will help you see which

homework assignments still need to be corrected (**anything with a .1 must still be corrected**). (*On RenWeb, this is the only way to differentiate between a correction and one that's done.*)

### Test and Quiz Corrections:

Math test/quiz corrections will always be done for **any grade below** an 80% and are **due in a week** (and as with all tests/quizzes, if the grade is below an 80%, it must be signed by a parent/guardian). Math test/quiz corrections must be **done on a completely separate piece of paper** from the test/quiz, using a proper heading. Corrections cannot be made on the test/quiz itself. When correcting a test/quiz below an 80%, **if there are any points taken off** on any problem (even half a point), **that problem must be corrected. The original test/quiz must be handed in, with the corrections stapled on top.** This counts as a **homework grade** and does not change the test/quiz grade. If the test/quiz doesn't need to be corrected, the homework grade is an automatic 100%. The policies for homework apply for test/quiz corrections.

### Homework Key:

- "**See me**" on the top of the page means that there's a conceptual error that I want to explain to the student. It is the student's responsibility to see me during class or at another break in the day.
- If I write "**Comp.**" on the paper, that means the mistake was a computational error; they understand the concept, but made a mistake in the computation.
- "**Copied**" means they copied the problem incorrectly.
- "**Dir.**" means they didn't follow the directions.
- "**Orig.**" means they need to write the original problem.
- "**Red.**" means reduce.
- "**Steps**" means the steps from the notes weren't followed.