

## What can I do at home to help?



- **IDENTIFY A PLACE WHERE YOUR CHILD WILL COMPLETE HER/HIS HOMEWORK EACH NIGHT.** (For some children, the bedroom is an ideal place; for others, it presents too many distractions. The dining room is a better option for these youngsters.)
- **OUTFIT YOUR CHILD'S HOMEWORK SPACE WITH ALL NECESSARY ITEMS** (pens, pencils, paper, a ruler, a calculator, erasers), so as to prevent unnecessary *school supply safaris*.
- **BUILD TIME FOR HOMEWORK INTO YOUR FAMILY'S ROUTINE,** using your knowledge of your own child, and of your family's after-school schedule. (Some children can't "get down to business" until they've had a chance to blow off steam; others have difficulty settling back down, once they've had time to play.) Having a regular time set aside for homework will increase the likelihood that it will get done with a minimum of fuss.
- **LET YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER KNOW WHEN AN ASSIGNMENT HAS PROVEN DIFFICULT OR TAKEN A LONG TIME TO COMPLETE.**

Since one of the major purposes of homework is to provide teachers with information about how much students know or are able to do, it's more helpful for families to stop their child before (s)he has grown frustrated, and to let the teacher know that a concept was unclear or that an assignment had taken longer than anticipated, than to move heaven and earth to ensure that homework is done completely and correctly. [Families' well-intentioned homework exertions often prove counterproductive: In addition to causing domestic strife (the oft-mentioned 'Homework Battles'), they also provide teachers with 'false positive' data about how much students know or are able to do, and about how long homework assignments are actually taking.]

By stopping their child after (s)he has put forth a reasonable amount of effort, and informing the teacher (through a brief note written directly on the assignment) of what the child had found challenging, families help teachers to know which students require clarification of which concepts.

## A Homework Guide

for

### Alden & Chandler School Families



Duxbury Public Schools

*Learning for Life*

## What's the point?



- Homework fosters in youngsters good work habits and positive attitudes toward learning...especially when families and educators work together to eliminate potential frustration.
- It activates students' thinking about topics and concepts that will be studied more formally in class.
- It allows students opportunities to practice *newly learned* skills, and to increase their familiarity with *newly introduced* concepts.
- It affords students valuable opportunities to engage in activities that only improve with practice - for example, *reading* (to increase fluency) or *studying math facts* (to allow for more automatic recall).
- Above all, homework provides teachers with valuable information about what students know and are able to do - information that is used to plan subsequent learning experiences.

## How much homework should my child be doing?



- Kindergarten: Assigned as appropriate
- Grade 1: 15 minutes per day, 4 nights per week
- Grade 2: 20 minutes per day, 4 nights per week
- Grade 3: 30 minutes per day, 4 nights per week
- Grade 4: 45 minutes per day, 4 nights per week
- Grade 5: 60 minutes per day, 4 nights per week

When students complete their specific homework assignments before the allotted time has elapsed (either because they tend to work quickly, or because that day's specific homework assignment requires only a limited amount of time to complete), they should use the balance of the time allotment to practice math facts and/or to read for pleasure and A.R. (Accelerated Reader) credit.