

Ms. D's Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the SHARK Binder?

A. The SHARK Binder is an organizational tool for your child. It stands for STUDENT HOMEWORK AND RESOURCE KEEPER. It contains Peek of the Week sheets (our form of a planner), calendar, website/login references, class schedule, subject folders, and more. It should go home each day and return the following day to school.

Q: How does homework work?

A: Homework will be listed on the Peek of the Week sheets in your child's SHARK Binder, in the classroom on the homework board, and on the class website. Homework is assigned on Thursdays and is due the following Thursday (unless otherwise noted). Students will typically have 3-4 tasks each week to complete. The homework routine is designed to allow students to practice things we do in class, as well as develop time management skills. Please communicate with me if you feel the homework load needs to be adjusted for your child.

Q: How many projects should we expect?

A: There will be 2-3 major projects and 3-4 minor projects this school year. Minor projects span 1-2 weeks, while major projects require significantly more time.

Q: Will my child take tests in 4th grade?

A: Yes. Students will take a variety of tests this year. Some of the tests will allow students to show mastery, progress, comprehension, and understanding of skills and content. Other tests will serve as a way to practice test-taking strategies and to learn how to "study" for a test. The Junior Scholastic (JS) test is an example of focusing more on the process of test preparation rather than the end product of a test. All tests will be listed on the website calendar, in the classroom on the calendar, on our test board, and on the Peek at the Week sheet in the SHARK binder/website. We also review in class prior to the test. All tests will come home to be signed and returned.

Q: Why don't I see a lot of completed papers coming home?

A: Students store most completed work in a folder in the classroom. That folder is then used to generate a student portfolio that will be shared in June. Rest assured, I will contact you if your child is having a work completion challenge.

Q: How much help should I be giving my child?

A: You know your child best. Some children need more parent scaffolding and support than others. I would encourage you to start to step back at some point this year to allow your child the opportunity to become more responsible. Some steps will feel like giant leaps of faith, while other steps may be tiny. Some will be able to make that step in the first trimester, while others will need to make it later in the year. Encourage your child to contact me in class or via email if there is a question or concern, rather

than doing it for them. Before you know it, your child will be in 5th grade and then on their way to middle school!

Q: My child is not feeling well, but is worried about missing a day of school, any advice?

A: Please reassure your child that I will help her/him catch up on anything missed while absent. It is very important to keep your child home if she/he is ill to prevent the spread of illness.

Q: How important is it that my child is at school by 8:30am?

A: We start our morning promptly at 8:30am. If a child is tardy, she/he has already missed important information/instructions. Students that arrive early always seem more relaxed and ready for the day as it prevents that uneasy, rushed feeling.

Q: My child has a hard time organizing so I clean out her/his folder, is that okay?

A: We have a dedicated time each Monday morning for organization of desk, cubby, and folders. If you feel the need to organize you can help by helping your child keep his/her locker tidy and checking the planner/website each week.

Q: Can I bring in treats for my child's birthday?

A: You may bring in birthday treats. Please send **all** necessary supplies required to serve and eat the treat. Pre-cutting items at home is appreciated!

Q: Will I receive a weekly classroom newsletter?

A: I do not send weekly newsletters. You can access all class info via our class website at your convenience. My website is <http://mrsd4.weebly.com/>. Please bookmark this page as it includes study guides, homework, calendar, project information, and classroom links. I will send email reminders of important information, reminders to check the website, and field trip info via email.

Q: What is the best way to contact you?

A: Email is the best way to reach me, mdimitroff@emerson-school.org