



# B8 Home-Learning



September 14, 2009

Dear Parents,

During the past several years we have experienced great success in implementing a program called *Home-Learning*. The intent of *Home-Learning* is to give students a wide range of choices in the major curriculum areas so that they are challenged and motivated to learn at home. We want to make learning at home a family endeavor and we want each assignment to be uniquely suited to the needs of the student.

With *Home-Learning*, students are given a list of activities for each evening. Students and parents will choose an assignment from this list. In giving students and parents choices within parameters, we hope we will help students take responsibility for their learning.

As parents review the assignment list, they will find that every item in the list of *Home-Learning* activities is directly related to 2nd and 3rd grade curriculum. Parents should be involved in discussing student choices every evening with their child. With a list of choices, parents may have their child do an assignment ahead of time in anticipation of a family event where the student will not be able to do their *Home-Learning* for that evening.

This year, we are adding to our Tuesday (Language) Home-Learning to give parents and students more choices and opportunities to do activities aligned with writing assignments being completed in the class during that week or month. We have also attempted to target our science activities for Thursday Home-Learning. The first four months of school are focused on the subject of *Astronomy*. More information will follow as we make these modifications.

There will be times when students will not be allowed to choose. This is usually the case when I want to focus on a particular skill or when there is a project due. If students are not given a choice for that evening, it will be noted on their [Daily Assignment Sheet](#) which is given to students the first day of school. The Daily Assignment Sheet provides parents an opportunity to review student choices and to write notes or comments for me to read.

Below, you will find more detailed information about *Home-Learning*. We anticipate that you may have questions or comments and of course, we would enjoy hearing from you.

## **Expectations**

As a rule, students are expected to work a minimum of **25 minutes** on any given *Home-Learning* assignment. But what we have found is that many students choose to put in much more time and effort on an activity they have chosen to do.

Monday through Friday, students will be expected to complete and turn in a *Home-Learning* assignment from the list of assignments contained in their *Home-Learning* packet which is in their ***binder***. For each day, there is an extensive list of activities students may choose to do. ***Every activity is explained to the students before they attempt the activity.*** Most activities are self-explanatory. The following is a list of activity categories for each day:

- ***Monday: Math***
- ***Tuesday: Language Arts and Reading***
- ***Wednesday: Social Sciences***
- ***Thursday: Science***

- **Friday: Physical Education/Art**

**Please note that students are expected to read every day.**

Students have been given a daily assignment sheet for each month of the year. Parents are expected to review their son's or daughter's choice and to sign the Daily Assignment Sheet *every evening*.

#### **Accountability**

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday students are responsible for turning in their *Home-Learning*. If, for any reason, your child cannot do his or her *Home-Learning*, please send a note to school explaining why he or she could not finish their *Home-Learning*; otherwise your child will be expected to finish **Home-Learning** at recess. If a student has two unexcused misses for Home-Learning in a week they will miss Friday special. Students who are absent because of illness or for family emergencies may complete their assignments at the discretion of their parent/parents, otherwise they will be excused from the assignment.

#### **Grading**

For every satisfactory *Home-Learning* turned in, your child will receive **five** points. For *Home-Learning* that demonstrates substantially more effort for your child, that *Home-Learning* will receive **six** points. Incomplete work, or work which demonstrates a significant lack of effort, will be graded three points or lower.

*Home-Learning* is usually graded every day and returned to students on that day. Please ask your child if they turned in their *Home-Learning* and if Mr. Green graded the work. **ASK TO SEE THE WORK EVERY DAY.** I will call or email parents if their child is not turning in their *Home-Learning* **on a consistent basis** .

#### **Your Opinion is Valued**

We are constantly searching for new *Home-Learning* ideas. If you have a new idea for a *Home-Learning* assignment, please feel free to send a note with your child, or come to school to talk.

#### **And Finally...**

We hope your son or daughter is challenged by the idea of *Home-Learning*.

I'd also like to encourage parents to set aside time every evening for family reading where you can read to your son or daughter, your son or daughter can read to you, or you can both read together silently.

Sincerely,

Mr. Green

## Monday: Math

Directions: Choose the assignment that is the most interesting and challenging for you to accomplish. Work at least 25 minutes on your assignment. If you wish to choose something that is not on this list, please write a plan on your [Daily Home-Learning Assignment](#) sheet (always kept in your binder), and give it to Mr. Green before you begin.

After you have completed your assignment, give your assignment to a parent or older brother or sister to correct. Turn in your *Home-Learning* on the next school day.

1. Choose one or more pages in your Math Book to do at home. It must be a page on which we are not currently working. Get an "OK" from Mr. Green to do the page. Write your assignment on the Home-Learning Daily Assignment Sheet.
2. Have a parent or family member write at least 15 math problems for you to do. They may be addition, subtraction, multiplication, division or any combination.
3. Choose two or more pages from a favorite math workbook you keep at home.
4. If you have a computer at home, choose a favorite Math game to play on the computer. Make sure you choose a game that is challenging. Have a parent write a note saying you worked at least 25 minutes on the game. You may go to our [classroom web site](#) and find a math game with your parent's permission.
5. If you have a computer go to our website and choose an activity to do from our "[Great Math Games](#)" link. Have a parent write a note saying you worked at least 25 minutes on the game.
6. Write down an estimate of the cost of groceries in your household for this week. Ask your parents to save their receipts!! At the end of the week, add the total cost of groceries to see whether your estimate was close. Show your work! (You must plan this activity in advance!!)
7. Collect data and create a bar, line or picture graph. [Print and use a graph form from our class web site \(or make your own\)](#). Before you make a graph, you will need to collect data (data is the information you want to graph). For many of the following graph ideas, you will need to plan ahead to start gathering data. When you are finished collecting and graphing your data, write 3 questions to ask other students about your graph. Here are some data and graph ideas (you may think of more!):
8. \* Graph the height of the people in your family.
9. \* Graph the number of hours of sleep you get each night for a week.
10. \* Graph the number of laps you run each day of the week.
11. \* Graph the number of minutes you spend exercising each day for a week.
12. \* Graph the number of minutes you spend reading each day for a week.
13. \* Graph the number of hours (daily) you spend watching TV for a week.
14. Plan and figure the cost of at least 2 meals for your family for any day of the week you choose. Before you begin, estimate the cost of the meals then use the newspaper to

## Monday: Math

help figure the actual cost of the items.

15. Create 5 different problems that show fractions of a whole. You may draw pictures if you like. Your fractions may show up to  $\frac{1}{12}$  or more.
16. Measure and record (in metric or standard) the perimeter of at least five areas in your house.
17. Measure and record (in metric or standard) the length of five things in your house.
18. Find a take-out pizza menu in your house. Figure the cost of pizza for your family for tonight's dinner. (Include drinks and salad) Record your answer on paper.
19. Find a take-out pizza menu in your house. Figure the cost of pizza for 5 of your friends for tonight's dinner. (Include drinks and salad) Record your answer on paper.
20. With your parent's permission, double your favorite recipe for cookies (or brownies!) then bake the cookies and bring at least TWO to school for Mr. Green to "test". Remember, you must have an adult with you when you are baking!!
21. Look in the "Classified Ads" in the newspaper. There, you will find many things for sale, from kittens to cars. Find 5 things you would like to buy and add up the cost of those things. Make a list and bring to school.
22. Create at least 5 different patterns with numbers.
23. Write at least 5 "word problems" (with answers). Show your work.
24. Look in the *Travel Section* of the Sunday newspaper. You will find information in ads and articles about the cost of airplane tickets to different cities. Choose a city you and your family would like to visit. Write down an estimate of how much you think it would cost to fly there. Then, find the least expensive air fare and figure the actual cost. Show your work.
25. Squares, Rectangles, Cones, Triangles, Circles, Spheres, are all names for shapes. For each shape listed here, find at least 2 items in your house that resemble that shape. Make a list or draw and label the items.
26. Check out Tangrams from the class library. Do as many shapes as you can in 25 minutes time. Have a parent write a note saying you did Tangrams for at least 25 minutes.
27. Make a new Math Game. It should be fun and challenging and have problems that we have covered this year. You may take 2 days to do this project if you bring a note from a parent.
28. Plan a trip to *Disneyland* for you and your family. Ask Mr. Green or a parent about the cost of tickets. Remember, you will have to plan for food for your family. Will you need to plan for lunch and dinner? Figure the cost of all the meals you will eat. Will you need spending money for souvenirs? List all your expenses on a piece of paper and add them up! (Yes, you may use a calculator or see if you can make your calculations without a calculator!)

## Monday: Math

29. Plan a trip to *The Zoo* for you and your family. Ask Mr. Green or a parent about the cost of tickets. Remember, you will have to plan for food for your family. Will you need to plan for lunch and dinner? Figure the cost of all the meals you will eat. Will you need spending money for souvenirs? List all your expenses on a piece of paper and add them up! (Yes, you may use a calculator or see if you can make your calculations without a calculator!)
30. Plan a trip to *Magic Mountain* for you and your family. Ask Mr. Green or a parent about the cost of tickets. Remember, you will have to plan for food for your family. Will you need to plan for lunch and dinner? Figure the cost of all the meals you will eat. Will you need spending money for souvenirs? List all your expenses on a piece of paper and add them up! (Yes, you may use a calculator or see if you can make your calculations without a calculator!)
31. ??? Your choice of topic with the approval of Mr. Green. Write your assignment on the Home-Learning Daily Assignment sheet.

## Tuesday: Language Arts

Directions: Choose the Reading/Language Arts assignment that is the most interesting and challenging for you to accomplish. Work at least 25 minutes on your assignment. If you wish to choose something that is not on this list, please write a plan on your Daily Home-Learning Assignment sheet, and ask Mr. Green before you begin.

Have a parent or older brother or sister read your assignment when you are finished. Turn in your Home-Learning on the next school day.

1. Write a friendly letter to a friend, classmate or relative. If you do not know how to make the letter in the proper form, please see Mr. Green before you do this assignment. Mr. Green will give you an envelope for your letter and he will tell you how to address the envelope. If you want to have some fun, go to The Letter Generator online. There is a link on our webpage that will take you there or follow the link above.
2. Answer the question of the week. Make sure you write at least 5 sentences ( 2 paragraphs for rd graders) and use appropriate punctuation. The “Question of the Week” can be found on our website at: <http://www2.sandi.net/ssv/rmb8question/QPage.html>
3. Write a story. The story should have at least 5 *paragraphs* (8 paragraphs for 3rd graders) . It should have a setting, a problem to solve, lots of good describing words and interesting characters. You may want to look at our story-starter page on our web site before you begin. This assignment may take more than a week to accomplish.
4. Write a “retell” of a story. See Mr. Green for details.
5. Do a "story map" of a favorite story, TV show, movie or play. Get your "Story Map Outline" from our web site. Or print this story map from Eduplace.
6. Write a letter to a friend. If you do not know how to make the letter in the proper form, please see Mr. Green before you do this assignment. Mr. Green will give you an envelope for your letter and he will tell you how to address the envelope.
7. Write a letter to a famous person. Think of some interesting facts you would like to know about that that person. Tell that person who you are and why you are writing to them. If you do not know how to make the letter in the proper form, please see Mr. Green before you do this assignment. Mr. Green will give you an envelope for your letter and he will tell you how to address your envelope.
8. Write a play to be performed by friends or with puppets. Your play must be written in "play form". This means you should have separate lines when each character speaks. You should describe each scene and give stage directions. You should list your cast of characters. See Mr. Green before you do this assignment.

## Tuesday: Language Arts

9. Write 4 questions about a story we are currently reading in class and present those questions to the class. Be sure to write the answers to your questions even if other answers might be different from your answer.
10. Choose a character from a story we have read this year or from one of your favorite stories. Create a story using that character. Your story must be at least 5 paragraphs (8 paragraphs for 3rd graders) in length. It should have a setting, a problem to solve, lots of good describing words and interesting characters.
11. Do a "Story Map" of a story you enjoy and you have read this year. (Mr. Green will explain.) Get your "Story Map Outline" form from our web site.
12. Prepare and present to the class a report about a book you've read and enjoy. If you wish, you may model your report after the Reading Rainbow book reviews at the end of each program.
13. Write directions on how to play a favorite game or how to cook a favorite meal or dessert. Write directions on how to do any crafts or special art projects. Share your directions with the class.
14. Write a description of anything of your choosing. Use your best describing words. It may be an object, a person (be polite!!), an animal, a fictional character or object. Make your description vivid enough so that the class or a friend can guess the thing or person you are describing. Your description must be at least 7 sentences in length.
15. Write an advertisement for a product or service of your choosing. You may write an advertisement about a great new toy or delicious food. You may write about a service you provide such as car washing, baby-sitting or pet-sitting.
16. Write a letter to a company asking for information about a product that interests you. For instance, you might ask for information on a new toy or video game. See Mr. Green for information on how to write your letter.
17. Write two paragraphs ( 3 paragraphs for 3rd graders) about something you like about school or would like to have changed at school.
18. Write at least 2 paragraphs ( 3 paragraphs for 3rd graders) about a friend or family member telling about the things you like most about that person.
19. Write a poem. Your poem can be any length, preferably not rhyming, and be on any subject that you choose. You must take at least 25 minutes to write your poem.
20. Write about a favorite author. You may use the "[Author Page](#)" on our web site to do research. Write at least one complete paragraph (2 paragraphs for 3rd graders) .
21. ??? Your choice of topic with the approval of Mr. Green. Write your assignment on the Home-Learning Daily Assignment sheet.

## Wednesday: Social Studies

Directions: Choose the assignment that is the most interesting and challenging for you to accomplish. Work at least 25 minutes on your assignment. If you wish to choose something that is not on this list, please write a plan on your [Daily Home-Learning Assignment](#) sheet, and give it to Mr. Green before you begin.

Have a parent or older brother or sister read your assignment when you are finished. Turn in your Home-Learning on the next school day.

1. Do a *Scholastic News*. You must read the entire magazine and answer all questions on the back.
2. Do a news report about a recent event or an interesting item in the news. You may use a newspaper, a magazine, the radio or television. You should write a minimum of 1 paragraph.
3. Choose a chapter from your Social Studies book on CD to read or take a book home. Write at least 3 things you learned.
4. Interview one of your parents about their job or about something about them that interests you. Write at least 5 questions with answers. The person you interview may help you write the answers.
5. Interview a grandparent. Ask your grandparent to tell you about what school was like when he/she in 2nd grade. Write a paragraph telling about what you learned.
6. Interview a grandparent. Ask your grandparent to tell you about an important event that happened in his/her life. Write a paragraph telling about what you learned.
7. Create a timeline of important family events. Use your own timeline or [print and use one from our web site](#).
8. Interview a person who provides a service to our community. Tell what they do and why it is important. Here are some people you might consider interviewing: a doctor, a lawyer, a police officer, a nurse, a church worker or pastor, rabbi, priest, minister etc., a person who helps senior citizens or a person who helps children. Mr. Green can give you more suggestions if you ask.
9. Write a paragraph about a famous person who has helped the world. Tell why they are important. You might write about Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, Sally Ride, Neil Armstrong etc. Mr. Green and your parents can help you with ideas.
10. Visit the San Diego Museum of Man in person or on your computer. Write at least 5 sentences telling about what you learned at the museum.
11. Visit the San Diego Aerospace Museum in person or on your computer. Write at least 5 sentences telling about what you learned at the museum.

### Wednesday: Social Studies

12. Visit the Mission Trails Park Interpretive Center in person or on your computer. Write at least 5 sentences telling about what you learned at the park.
13. Visit a fire station. Write at least 5 sentences telling about what you learned at the fire station.
14. Visit a farm. Write at least 5 sentences telling about what you learned on the farm. Tell how living on the farm is different than living in the city.
15. Choose a city or country you would like to visit. Use an encyclopedia or a book to learn about that city or country. Write at least 1 paragraph about that city or country.
16. Write at least 1 paragraph describing your neighborhood. Draw pictures if you like. Tell what kinds of houses are in your neighborhood and what kinds of plants and animals are in your neighborhood. Tell about the people in your neighborhood.
17. Watch the "Discovery Channel" on Cox Cable or visit their web site. Write at least 2 paragraphs about an interesting program you saw.
18. Watch the "The Learning Channel" on Cox Cable or visit their web site. Write at least 2 paragraphs about an interesting program you saw.
19. Read a Fable or a Folk Tale. Where was the fable or folk tale written? Did it have a lesson? Did you like the story? Write at least 2 paragraphs answering these questions.
20. Draw a map of your neighborhood. Print and use our classroom map grid from our web site. Fill in the legend and write 5 questions for students to answer about your neighborhood.
21. Print and use our classroom map grid from our web site. Draw a map of an imaginary place and make a legend. Write 5 questions for students to answer about your map.
22. Ask Mr. Green for a map of the United States or go to our [web site and print a map](#). See if you can find and label the major rivers, lakes mountain ranges. See if you can label 5 major cities.
23. Ask Mr. Green for a map of the world or print [a map from our web site](#). Label all of the continents and all of the oceans. You may color the map if you wish.
24. ??? Your choice of topic with the approval of Mr. Green. Write your assignment on the Home-Learning Daily Assignment sheet.

## Thursday: Science

Directions: Choose the assignment that is the most interesting and challenging for you to accomplish. Work at least 25 minutes on your assignment. If you wish to choose something that is not on this list, please write a plan on your Daily Home-Learning Assignment sheet, and give it to Mr. Green before you begin.

Have a parent or older brother or sister read your assignment when you are finished. Turn in your Home-Learning on the next school day.

*September Through December Science (see our website or our classroom library for books about our solar system):*

1. Write and illustrate two paragraphs about a favorite planet in our solar system.
2. Write and illustrate two paragraphs about asteroids.
3. Write and illustrate two paragraphs about comets.
4. Write and illustrate two paragraphs about the sun.
5. Write and illustrate two paragraphs about the moon. Explain the phases of the moon.
6. Write and illustrate two paragraphs about space travel.
7. Write and illustrate two paragraphs about how a rocket works.
8. Prepare and present an *astronomy* experiment to the class. (Parent help required.) You must write an explanation of your experiment telling exactly what you are trying to show. A parent may help you write your explanation.
9. Read a book or an article on a science topic that interests you. Write at least one paragraph telling about some interesting facts or ideas you learned.
10. Visit the San Diego Natural History Museum in person or on your computer. Write at least 5 sentences telling about what you learned at the museum.
11. Visit the San Diego Museum of Man in person or on your computer. Write at least 5 sentences telling about what you learned at the museum.
12. Visit the San Diego Aerospace Museum in person or on your computer. Write at least 5 sentences telling about what you learned at the museum.
13. Visit the San Diego Zoo in person or on your computer. Write at least 5 sentences telling about what you learned at the zoo.
14. Visit the Wild Animal Park in person or on your computer. Write at least 5 sentences telling about what you learned at the park.
15. Visit the Birch Scripps Aquarium in person or on your computer. Write at least 5

## Thursday: Science

sentences telling about what you learned at the park.

16. Visit the Mission Trails Park Interpretive Center in person or on your computer. Write at least 5 sentences telling about what you learned at the park.
  17. Visit the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center. Write at least 5 sentences telling about what you learned at the center.
  18. Write at least 2 paragraphs about a machine that interests you. Tell how the machine works. Draw pictures if you wish.
  19. Write at least 2 paragraphs about a favorite animal. Be sure you tell why you like that animal.
  20. Watch "Bill Nye the Science Guy" on TV or visit his web site. Write at least 2 paragraphs about something you learned on the program.
  21. Watch "Bill Nye the Science Guy" on TV or visit his web site. Bring an experiment to class that you saw on the program. If you are doing an experiment, ask your parent's permission first.
  22. Watch the "Animal Planet" on Cox Cable or visit their web site. Write at least 1 paragraph about an interesting program you saw.
  23. Watch "The Magic School Bus" on TV. Write at least 1 paragraph about something you learned on the program.
  24. Choose an *Earth Science* topic and do an experiment or write a paragraph. Our classroom has many books on these subjects. Here are some suggestions: *favorite rocks (name, type etc.), volcanoes, earthquakes, erosion, fossils*
- ??? Your choice of topic with the approval of Mr. Green. Write your assignment on the Home-Learning Daily Assignment sheet.

## Friday: Art & Physical Education

Directions: Over the weekend, in addition to reading each day, you are required to perform some form of physical activity. For most of you, this will be quite easy because you are already very active. If you swim, do gymnastics, play soccer, baseball, basketball, or football or if you ride your bike for more than an hour, then you have already done your Home-Learning!! Simply have your parent sign the Home-Learning form on the back of your calendar and write a word or two that tells what you did..

If you wish to choose something that is not on this list, please write a plan on your Daily Home-Learning Assignment sheet, and give it to Mr. Green before you begin. Turn in your Home-Learning on the next school day.

***You may also choose to do an art project or visit an art museum. However, everyone is required to have some form of exercise.***

- 1 Play in an organized game or activity such as swimming, soccer, baseball, basketball, football, roller hockey, gymnastics or karate. You must play for at least 25 minutes.
- 2 Jog for 15 minutes each day.
- 3 Work on upper body strength. Do as many push-ups or pull-ups as you can in 10 to 15 minutes time.
- 4 Ride your bike for 30 minutes. Be sure to get parent approval and be sure to wear a helmet!! **(It's the law!!!)**
- 5 Choose an art project to work on. Bring the project to class on Monday. You must discuss the project with Mr. Green before you begin.
- 6 **?? Student/Parent Suggestion**