



Berkshire Local School District

BURTON ELEMENTARY
13724 Carlton Street, Burton, OH 44021

Dear Burton Elementary Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the new 2016-2017 school year! I am so excited to see your families! With the beginning of a new year, Burton Elementary understands that there is a need to acknowledge current trends and data regarding homework. We honor and respect the need for families to enjoy their evenings together and to have time to participate in activities that allow our students to become well-rounded individuals! Eating dinner, playing and rest are all key elements to a healthy and enjoyable evening together! We appreciate our strong partnership with you as parents/guardians and want to continue to build that rapport and support for each other.

As a staff, we discussed our opinions on homework and are looking at how we can help our students balance recharging themselves in the evenings, but also coming to school prepared for lessons. Adequate rest is essential to be most effective during the school day and we understand how crucial it is for kids to have time in the evening to recharge. We view homework as practice and preparation for assessments and lessons at school. The goal of our partnership with you is to help reinforce the skills necessary for students' academic success. We do not expect families to teach new content or complete homework that is new to our students. The skills outlined in our policy for practice at home will help our students better understand the new material introduced in school. In order to avoid homework frustration, teachers will provide time in school for assistance with homework focused on new content and material.

During the school day, Intermediate classroom teachers (4th, 5th and 6th grade), will be available for questions during a period called "Academic Lab". "Academic Lab" is a time for students to complete their math homework at school. If the content homework from the new material is not completed during academic lab, teachers will assess whether it is a behavioral concern, not understanding the material, or a time management issue. These situations will be handled with students on a case by case basis. Students may not always be able to complete the work during "Academic Lab", but are encouraged to share with you what they learned in class. They are not expected to complete the math content homework practice problems from the lesson. It is sent home to keep you informed of what your child is doing in class. Students will still have a Simple Solutions practice page to complete at home, this is a routine review and practice of skills. Primary classroom teachers (kindergarten-3rd grade), will build time within their day to complete new content-based work. The primary teachers will inform you of the important skills to be practicing at home to build skills that are applied to the material taught in school.

We feel it's important for students to be responsible for completing homework and practicing important life skills for success. Practicing skills, studying and reading is our main focus throughout the building. If the skills are not being mastered, or practiced, we will meet with you on a case by case basis to see if there are consequences needed for behavior concerns or interventions needed for academic concerns. Our goal is to have students practice their skills and share their lessons with you at home. We will be able to then apply those skills to new lessons and content in class. We do understand and want to support the quality time with your family in the evening and make homework manageable for families to complete together!

Homework policies are being created and reviewed by staff and administration in schools all around the country. We will continue to review our plan and stay current with what works best for student achievement at Burton Elementary. We will continue to collaborate with you to challenge our students while providing support to enhance their success at home practicing the necessary skills. Thank you for your partnership in making your child's day successful, and we hope that you will take that extra time at home to enjoy your evening together! If you have any questions about this policy, please do not hesitate to call us at 440-834-330 X 1101

Sincerely,
Mandy Randles

