

Homework in Great First Eight K-2



In Great First Eight, we view homework as a way to connect school and home—both are important learning contexts for children. We do not assign the traditional, daily homework that is often rote, repetitive, and used punitively. Instead, home activities are designed to be meaningful, allow for child choice, and deepen school learning. We believe our approach, in lieu of traditional homework, honors families' learning time together. We hope it transforms homework from a task to be checked off into a substantive opportunity for dialogue and connection between children and family members, as well as school and family. Your child's teacher will likely draw from the below GF8 resources for homework:

Family Journal Prompts

We invite families to participate in responding to a weekly Family Journal prompt, which encourages conversation around topics relevant to class projects as well as children's learning and social and emotional development. They are designed to be manageable in scope and format for busy families. A variety of methods for family responses are encouraged, including writing (in any language), drawing, creating a video or audio recording submitted via Seesaw, and so on.

Family Choice Boards (Optional)

There is a Family Choice Board available for each unit. This resource provides a menu of activities for each unit that children and families can do if they would like. These activities are designed to be enjoyable and meaningful for children and families to engage in together.

Reading with Children

We invite families to read to their children whenever possible. We encourage many kinds of reading material, such as signs in the community, children's books, recipes, and websites and magazine articles appropriate for children. Beginning in the third unit of kindergarten and throughout first and second grade, children can access and read previously taught Wonder Books through QR codes that the teacher will send home. The teacher may also loan out paper copies of Wonder Books.

Viewing with Children

We invite families to watch and discuss educational material with children as a way of supporting their learning. Research has shown that programs available on PBS stations and at <https://pbskids.org>, for example, support children's learning in math, science, language, literacy, and more. YouTube and other channels and websites offer many educational videos as well.

Family Studios

Great First Eight Family Studios are meetings for families, children, and teachers to learn from each other about supporting children's development. In the Family Studios, families share and learn about ways to support math and literacy learning through everyday activities, such as cooking or running errands. Studios are a great way to connect with other families in the school community.