Interactive Notebook FAQ

I know how hard you work to help your children practice their reading, writing and math at home. I also know that it is sometimes hard to know what to practice and how to practice it. To help with this, our classroom is implementing Interactive Homework Journals this year! This will be a really exciting, engaging way for your child to practice skills at home. Most of the activities can be completed in 10-15 minutes or less. By the end of the year, your child will have created an eye-catching, meaningful notebook that you will want to keep as a scrapbook for years to come! Below are some questions that you may be wondering about:

* What is an Interactive Journal?

 Interactive essentially means that students are working with their hands (cutting, gluing, folding) in order to enhance their learning experience. Research shows that hands-on learning is an effective way to learn, reinforce, and process new information.

* How can I help my child with his/her homework?

We are moving towards independence in our classroom, but it is a process. If you do decide that your child needs help with the cutting and gluing, please ensure that you are only helping, not completing the assignment for your child. For some activities it may be necessary for you to help with spelling, etc. You can help AND encourage independence at the same time by writing words on another piece of paper and having your child copy from there. Please remember that I want your child to enjoy their homework, so use your best judgment when assisting them to make it an enjoyable experience.

* Do I need to have certain supplies on hand?

You will need to have a bottle of white glue, scissors, pencil crayons and crayons on hand at home. These will be used in every Interactive Journal activity. Newspapers, magazines, and flyers will also come in handy for certain activities.

* How can I make homework time a fun time for my child?

If you are excited about your child’s learning, chances are good that they will be excited too. Sit with them, talk about the activity and provide help when necessary. Tell them what you like best about the work that they did. Stay positive. Tell them things that you are noticing about how their work is improving. This will motivate your child, and when a child is motivated, learning is fun!

Thank you for being an integral part of your child’s learning.

Sincerely,

Ms. Sedivy