

Homework Policy at the Studio of Engaging Math

Homework in math is as important as classwork. Students are given a homework assignment for every class. Your child's homework submitted on time is necessary for successfully studying at the Studio. Please find the Studio of Engaging Math expectations of students' homework below. We would appreciate it if you also discuss them with your children.

1. Students are required to complete the homework packet on time.

- The due date is posted on Google classroom. Usually, it's the day before the class.
- Homework submitted later than the due date might not be graded. If the student partially submitted the homework, only the part submitted on time will be graded.
- If a student fails to submit a completed homework packet repeatedly, they may fall behind the class. In this case, it may be difficult for the student to stay in the same group, and the Studio may offer a different group.

2. Students should write legibly so that others can read their work comfortably, especially on the scanned version.

- Use scrap paper for draft work.
- Leave space between lines.
- Use sharp pencils (please have a pencil sharpener at home), we suggest thicker pencils for online classes. Use good erasers.
- There should not be any doodling in the packet.
- The ruler should be used for geometry pages.

3. Students should show their work.

- The solution needs to be written in a way that the teacher explained during the class. The teacher will tell students when they need to write the steps down. Usually writing steps out is required for mental math, order of operations, word problems.
- It is important for the teacher to see students' answers as well as their process of solution. A correct answer does not always guarantee the correct solution or the only solution for a given problem. With just the wrong answer, it is difficult to tell whether or not the student understood what was being taught or made one mistake in the process of solution.

4. The quality of scanning (for online classes only).

- Homework should be uploaded as one file.
- Please make sure before submitting the homework that it's scanned straight, clean, and well readable.
- You can find instructions on how to scan and upload your child's homework in the *Studio's Google classroom guide* on our website under the **For Parents** tab.

5. Checked and returned homework.

- Homework is checked and graded by the teacher weekly.
- For online classes, the teacher returns checked homework not later than 24 hours before the next class with highlighted mistakes and the teacher's comments. For in-person classes, the homework is returned during the class.
- Students should have access to Google classroom and the checked homework to observe their mistakes and ask questions during the next class if they have. To look over mistakes and teacher's notes is a priceless way to improve math skills and understanding.
- You can find how to get access to the graded homework in the **Studio's Google classroom guide** on our website under the **For Parents** tab.

6. Parents' support.

We do our best on our side, however parents' help is priceless, and we expect to work as a team with the families.

- Please check teacher comments on your child's homework on Google classroom weekly and share and discuss them with your child.
- Encourage your child to review and work on mistakes from the graded homework.
- Make sure your child has enough time to complete the homework weekly. To complete the homework mostly takes between half and full class time weekly depending on the student (1-2 hours for a 2-hour class). We usually recommend breaking down the work into a few parts to complete in multiple sessions.

7. Homework Help.

- The Studio provides free Homework Help for those students who have questions about the particular problems in homework.
- To sign up for a time slot, use the links below. You will be required to specify the packet and page numbers that your child needs help with.
Grades K - 4: [Studio of Engaging Math HW help Grades K-4](#)
Grades 5 - 8: [Studio of Engaging Math HW Help for grades 5-8](#)

If you have any additional questions, please contact the Studio via email admin@engagingmath.com.

Below you will find the reasons behind the rules of the Studio Homework Policy.

- **The “Show your work” rule**

As you know, most tests right now are multiple-choice, however, some remain handwritten. Tests and homework like this allow students to demonstrate an understanding of the method and show the teacher whether the answer is complete. This also allows for partial credit. It's essential to show student's work on such types of tests.

To provide a high quality of education we want to be sure of a student's understanding. Multiple-choice questions don't show full understanding as a correct answer can be acquired with an incorrect method and vice versa. For that reason, we insist on the “Show your work” rule even if the student gave the correct answer.

- **The ‘Neat writing” rule**

Kids' handwriting may be an issue. Often, when kids write a solution it is very hard or impossible to read. If a teacher can't read the homework it is harder to grasp what the students understand and what they don't, so it is in the class's best interests for students to have neat handwriting.

There are a few tips that can help your child to improve a hand-writing:

- A mechanical pencil .5 or .7 with a softness of 2. The pencil needs to be easy to operate, without much force, and for it to have a good eraser (as well as be erasable).
- Children in grade 2+ also need a see-through ruler with a straight edge (*add where to get good erasers*).
- Grips are often also a good idea especially for those kids who are lefties.
- Check if your child holds the pencil correctly. Incorrect holding may make neat hand-writing very difficult for your child.