

Hello 4th Grade Families,

We are off to a great start this year! I hope you are settling into the routines of 4th grade. In the next few weeks, the 4th grade students will start our math homework routine. I wanted to give you a heads-up because I need your help in making sure your 4th grader has the best math homework plan for your family.

I am a firm believer that math homework should never be “busy” work - my goal is for students to recognize and use math in their everyday lives. There is a lot of research which states that doing regular math homework in elementary school gives no significant benefits for students. I know some families find math homework frustrating or hard to schedule because of other family activities. However, some families really appreciate having a math homework routine which gives you the opportunity to spend time with your 4th grader and to learn more about what s/he is studying in math class. Math homework may also be a way to practice responsibility, independence, and perseverance. Each family has a different perspective on homework.

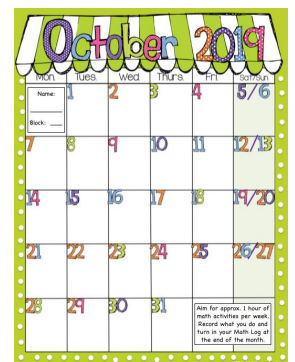
Therefore, I want to offer three options for 4th grade math homework. After considering these choices, please let me know your decision. Whether or not you choose for your 4th grader to complete homework is a family choice, and I will support your decision.

### **Option 1: NO Formal Math Assignments**

I will not expect your 4th grader to turn in math homework assignments or monthly math calendars.. Students will still have access to all homework assignments and challenge opportunities.

### **Option 2: Monthly Math Calendars**

This option gives you a little more flexibility but your 4th grader will still record the math homework s/he completes. Students get the calendar at the beginning of the month, record math practice & projects throughout the month, and turn in the completed calendar at the end of the month. Your 4th grader might choose to bake, craft, or build things, play math games, practice math skills online, tackle logic puzzles, read math books, or work on a larger math project (like setting up a budget to save for a big purchase or designing a plan to pay for a family vacation). Students will have access to all weekly math assignments and may choose to complete some of the activities to record on the monthly calendar. This option may be a good fit for families who want homework but have extra activities during the week and need some flexibility with math homework or for students who want to tackle long-term or challenging math projects during the month.



### Option 3: Weekly Math Homework Assignments

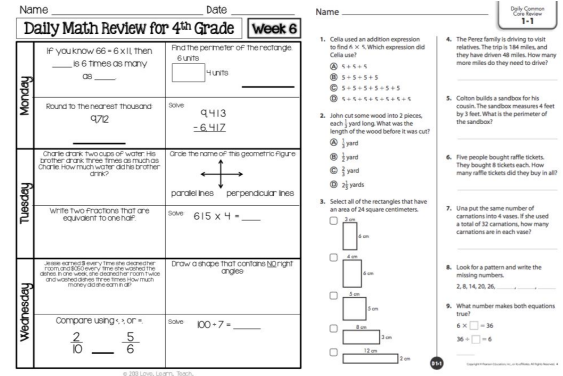
This option is similar to the math homework from 3rd grade. The practice sheets are assigned on Monday and are due on Friday. The math problems focus on both current & review skills. This option may be a good fit for families who want a consistent weekly math homework routine.

Please let me know your preference about 4th grade math homework. I'd be happy to answer your questions before you make your decision. You can change your mind about homework anytime - just let me know. We will record this choice in your 4th grader's binder so everyone knows your family's plan. If I do not hear from you, I will assume you prefer Option 1 so I won't send home any math homework.

Thanks,

*Elin*

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### 4th Grade Math Homework Preference - Please return this section only.

4th Grader's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Math Homework Preference (see option descriptions above):

- Option 1: NO Formal Math Assignments
- Option 2: Monthly Math Calendars
- Option 3: Weekly Math Homework Assignments

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please let me know if you want to change your math homework option anytime.*