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Dear Family,

Homework is an important link between learning inside and outside school. Homework assignments provide reinforcement of the work students do in math class. Here are some suggestions for making the homework experience successful for your child:

- Set a regular time every day for homework, and establish a quiet place for your child to work (whether at home, in an afterschool program, or at some other place).
- Establish a system for bringing homework back and forth from school. Use an assignment book, a homework folder, or other organizational tools.
- Students will bring home the materials and directions needed to do homework activities. Certain materials will be used again and again throughout the year. Because they will be sent home only once, please help your child find a safe place to store these math materials—maybe in a math folder or envelope—so that they can be easily located and used when needed. If your child regularly does homework in more than one place, we can talk about how to obtain the necessary materials.
- In our math class, students spend time working on problems in depth and are asked to share their reasoning and solutions. It is most important that children accurately and efficiently solve math problems by using problem-solving methods that are meaningful to them. At home, encourage your child to explain his or her strategies and mathematical ideas to you.

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When your child asks you for help in solving a problem, it may be helpful for you to ask questions such as these:

What is the problem asking you to figure out?

Does this remind you of other problems?

What part of the problem do you already know how to solve?

What is a good place to start?

What have you figured out so far?

Would drawing a picture or diagram help?

How can I help you (without telling you an answer)?

If you would like to share any thoughts with me about how your child is approaching a homework task, please send me a note. If an assignment seems too difficult, too confusing, or perhaps too easy, let me know so that I can address the issue. I look forward to working with you throughout the year.