

Elementary Homework Guidelines



How Long Should Homework Take?

The amount of time a student spends on homework depends on the student's needs, age and grade, subject, tests and project due dates.

Teachers follow the suggested guidelines of 5 to 10 minutes per grade per night as a general rule but times may vary from individual to individual, at various times within a school year. Parents who are concerned that their children are regularly spending more time than in the chart below, should contact the teacher and/or the school principal to discuss the situation.

Grade	Most Evenings (Excluding Friday and Weekends)
JK – Grade 1	5 – 10 minutes per night including home reading to a maximum of 30 minutes per week
Grade 2 – Grade 3	5 – 30 minutes per night including home reading to a maximum of 60 minutes per week
Grade 4 – Grade 6	20 – 60 minutes per night to a maximum of 180 minutes per week by Grade 6
Grade 7 – Grade 8	35 – 80 minutes per night to a maximum of 240 minutes per week by Grade 8



To respect the importance of family and recreational time, teachers will be sensitive to days of significance and holidays when assigning homework. No new homework will be assigned over Christmas and March Break.

Extended Absences During the School Year

When a child is absent for an extended period due to illness, parents should contact the school administrator to discuss options. However, when a student is taken out of school at times other than school holidays or days of significance on a family vacation for example, the parents or guardians are encouraged to allow the student to enjoy their experience without having homework from his or her teacher. Parents can ask children to complete journals or travel logs or do real-life math exercises related to the trip as the experience itself is a learning opportunity.

Concerned With the Amount of Homework Your Child Is Doing?

Have you noticed your child spends more time on homework than he or she should be based on the guidelines outlined in this brochure? Teachers want to know because your child may be receiving more homework than their recommended time or your child may need more time with his or her teacher to understand the literacy and/or numeracy concepts.

Speak to your child's teacher with any concern you have about your child's homework and then, if necessary, talk to your Principal.



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Why Homework is Important

Love it or hate it, homework is an important part of every student's education. Working and studying at home reinforces what children learn in the classroom, which helps them remember the information better, score higher on tests and enjoy more success.

Homework also provides valuable skills students need to succeed both in school and in the world of work, including:
Self-discipline; Self-confidence; Commitment to tasks; Initiative; Organization and time management skills; and Responsibility.

For younger students, it's important for them to see that learning happens in a variety of settings, not just at school. Homework in the early grades promotes good attitudes and study habits and has a long-term effect you'll see when your child moves into higher grades.

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Families

Are an Important Part of Homework

Research has shown that students do better in school when parents are involved in their children's education. Parents' attitudes about homework have direct, positive effects on their children's outlook on homework.

In Kindergarten and the early primary grades, homework usually means reading stories, playing games and talking with your child about what he/she is learning.

Around Grade 3 or 4, effective homework becomes more independent. Parents can still clarify, encourage and help when needed, but they should not be too involved in the assignment so the student can develop his/her own independent work habits.



Try to:

- Regularly read to younger children and read along with older children in English and/or the student's first language in the early years of a child's schooling.
- Show interest in your child's schoolwork. Ask questions and start discussions to help him/her clarify and summarize what he/she has learned.
- Participate in homework – set up homework routines, provide guidance, praise and encouragement, but let the child answer the questions and use his/her own words and ideas to complete the assignment.
- Review your child's student agenda/planner regularly.
- Make sure there is a balance between homework and other activities, such as sports or hobbies.
- Provide a good working environment for your child to do his/her homework, away from distractions.
- Communicate with the teacher if/when concerns arise.
- Talk to the teacher or school administrator about help for your child through on-line resources or community after-school homework programs.

Students

While it's important that children get the right support from their teachers and families, they must have responsibility for their homework.

All students should:

- Make sure that they understand their homework (e.g. What do I have to do? When do I have to hand it in?). If they aren't sure about anything, they should ask the teacher before taking it home.
- Record homework assignments in their agendas.
- Do their homework on time and study for tests.
- Manage time and materials they must bring home to do their homework.
- Do their best in completing homework.
- Demonstrate a positive initiative towards finishing homework.