

District 105 Homework Guidelines

School District 105 believes that homework is a valuable part of a child's total learning process. Homework is important because it *reinforces* concepts already taught *at school*. Relevant homework extends the learning that takes place in the classroom by providing reinforcement and challenge. Furthermore, it establishes study habits, fosters student initiative and responsibility, and promotes creativity. Finally, homework is a wonderful way to bring home and school closer together.

Research has shown that homework can significantly improve student achievement. It provides opportunities for all students to develop a sense of responsibility toward their work helping them build good study habits and self-discipline. Students also learn to manage their time and meet deadlines. Mastery of these learning skills *in the first few years of school* is an invaluable tool for dealing with future learning experiences.

Homework involves students, teachers, and parents working together. Everyone's role in this effort is *CRUCIAL*. Together, we must reinforce the idea that quality study time will help students do better in school. It does make a difference! By all working together, parents and teachers can help students develop good study habits and encourage them to become lifelong, successful learners.

Homework Guidelines for Parents:

- Emphasize that homework is important.
- *Encourage your child to assertively ask questions in order to clarify homework expectations each day.*
- Examine your child's homework *assignment notebook*
- Examine your child's classroom website page for daily assignments (*grades 4-8 only*).
- Ask your child to explain his or her homework to you.
- Provide a quiet, well-lighted location to study.
- Provide resource materials, such as magazines, newspapers, dictionaries, reference books, and working tools (e.g. paper, pencils and, if possible, a computer).
- It is important that it does not become *YOU* who is doing the homework.
- If an assignment is overly challenging, *encourage your child to attempt the assignment to the best of his/her ability.* Next, contact your child's teacher.
- Review your child's assignment for neatness and completion.
- Praise your child's efforts when the homework is well done.
- Inform the teacher if difficulties are experienced during the completion of assigned homework, as further instruction may be *necessary*. Also, notify the teacher if your child frequently spends more time than the average homework time for the grade level. See reverse for breakdown of homework minutes by grade level.

Grade Level	Minutes of Homework*
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Kindergarten	5 - 10
1st	10
2nd	20
3rd	30
4th	40
5th	50
6th	60
7th	70
8th	80

*These minutes reflect the **approximate number of minutes** your child will work on homework assignments each evening. It is important to note that homework “minutes” can also include time spent on assignments while attending school sponsored “Homework Clubs” after school hours. **In addition to daily assignments**, teachers will assign independent reading, math fact practice, and long-term projects for homework. These assignments, of course, will vary depending on student grade level and learning needs; therefore consult your child’s teacher with any questions.

In District 105, each student’s classroom instruction is based on his or her individual learning needs. Homework assignments will also be assigned to best meet your child’s individual educational needs.

Homework Guidelines Following Absences

- Notify the teacher when family emergencies, such as serious illness or death, prevent completion of homework assignments.
- Make arrangements to collect assignments when your child is absent for consecutive days by calling the school office. Assignments can be picked up after school hours, by request.
- Notify the teacher and school office when a family vacation is planned during the school year. Vacations during the school year are strongly discouraged. Assignments may be given to be completed during the vacation. Assignments will be given to the child upon his/her return. The student has the same number of days to complete the assignments as they were absent for the vacation. Some assignments may be given to complete during the vacation.

District 105 believes that when assignments serve a good purpose and parents reinforce the completion of the tasks, students will benefit by gaining higher grades, better study habits, and a more positive attitude toward school and learning. Homework assignments give parents insight into the school curriculum and offer a greater opportunity for student learning to occur.