

Diamond Elementary School

Homework Policy

revised 9/20/2019

A carefully planned program for homework assignments is an effective means of increasing student learning. Homework provides an opportunity for students to develop initiative, responsibility, self-direction and organizational skills. Homework also strengthens concept attainment, skill development, and reinforcement. Finally, homework is an important tool for informing parents about current areas of student and student working levels.

THE PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK

Homework is one of the many learning activities in which students engage; its purposes should be to:

1. Extend learning and/or provide practice in applying concepts initially presented in the classroom
2. Provide opportunities for independent work
3. Strengthen concept and skill development
4. Provide opportunities for enrichment
5. Develop initiative, responsibility, self-direction and organizational skills

GUIDELINES

Homework assignments must be carefully planned by the teacher in accordance with the following guiding principles:

1. The purpose of the assignment and its relation to what has been learned in the classroom will be clearly understood by the pupil.
2. Pupils will understand fully not only what to do, but also how to do it, and when it is due.
3. Homework will build off from classroom tasks and projects or will focus on skill/strategy reinforcement.
4. Assignments will be varied and require the use of a number of skills.
5. Homework may be checked for its quality and/or completion. Some homework (for practice) assignments may be included as a learning skill grade. When stated in advance, homework can be used to assess students' learning after they have had ample practice and feedback on identified skills/concepts, in which the assessment can be used as an academic grade.
6. Some homework assignments will be issued/completed through computer programs such as Google Classroom.
7. In grades 3-5, teachers will provide students with an assignment folder/book to fully record daily and long-term assignments. Parents should help students check their assignment folder/book each night, so the student can eventually develop an independent habit of checking their assignment folder/book. When appropriate, parent signatures on homework assignment books will be requested.
8. Teachers will communicate regularly with parents to report missing or incomplete homework assignments.
9. If your family is celebrating a religious holiday, your child will be exempt from that night's homework assignment. Just notify your child's teacher.
10. Students may make up assignments missed due to excused absences. Teachers are not required to provide assignments in advance for absences of any type.
11. Homework may be assigned three to five times a week on average.

TIME ALLOTMENTS

The time allotted to homework should increase gradually from grade to grade. The following is a list of approximate daily time allotments (may vary according to the child):

Guidelines

Grades K-2	10-30 minutes
Grades 3-4	30-45 minutes
Grade 5	Up to 60 minutes

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These times are approximate. Individual students pace may need to be taken into consideration. We request that problems/concerns be communicated to the teacher. When enough time has been allowed in school for class work, and that work has not been completed, it may be assigned as homework, thereby exceeding the recommended daily time allotted to homework.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of assignments and seek further explanation if needed.
2. The student will organize his/her time to work on assignments.
3. The student will turn assignments in on time.
4. The student will have high standards regarding quality and completeness of work.
5. Students in grades 3-5 will be responsible for recording daily assignments in their required assignment book each day.

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

While the pupil should assume the major responsibility for completing homework assignments, parents are encouraged to take an active interest in the pupil's homework by the following:

1. Provide a study area that is quiet, comfortable and free from major disturbances.
2. Provide a definite time for study or other home activities.
3. Make available, if possible, such resource materials as reference books, magazines, newspapers and dictionary.
4. Assist pupils with mastery of specific skills (i.e., math facts).
5. Check the pupil's work for neatness and legibility. (Primary children should use pencils for written work.)
6. Arrange with the teacher to secure assignments during a period of excused absence. Teachers are not responsible for providing homework for extended vacations or unexcused absences.
7. Monitor your child's daily and/or weekly assignment sheets/books and long-range assignments.
8. Parents are to encourage their child to complete homework assignments on their own as much as possible and assist only as needed.* (See #10)
9. If a child's homework is consistently too difficult or exceeding the recommended time allotment, the child's teacher should be notified.
10. If your child receives accommodations for assignments at school due to an IEP plan, 504 plan, or ESOL plan, parents are expected to use the same accommodations at home with their child when completing homework assignments.