

Homework Help

Things to keep in mind for all grade levels

- Homework has 2 purposes: to practice or prepare.
- Teachers will not give homework in which a child could not complete on his/her own.
- It is okay for students to struggle, it is part of the learning process. Encourage your child to persevere through challenging work.
- Be an active participant in your child's education.
- Partner with the teachers to support and ensure your child's success. Teachers are willing to help in any way they can.
- Please be proactive (using PowerSchool and teacher websites. Google Classroom) and begin dialogues with the teachers early.
- We have a parent liaison who can help with translating in Spanish – contact the office.
- Establish a consistent routine: a specific time to do homework (right after school, after dinner, etc.).
- Find a quiet place to do homework (kitchen table, desk, etc.).
- Eliminate all distractions such as cell phone, computer, TV (unless necessary for the task).
- Remind your child to write their homework down in their agenda - homework is posted in every classroom in the “blue tape” area.
- Check periodically that your child has necessary school supplies.
- Every student was provided an organizational folder system.
 - The 1st folder is the homeroom folder. A parent signature label should be on the front pocket of this folder. All forms handed out in homeroom get put in here.
 - The rest of the folders are subject specific and in the order of your student's schedule.
 - The front pocket of all the folders (except the homeroom folder) is labeled “homework only”. This is a reminder to students that homework only goes in the front.
 - Papers that are returned, notes, etc. go in the back of the folder.
 - Students should clean out their specific subject “folder” after each unit.
 - Parents can help by encouraging students to make sure papers are placed in the correct folder/pocket.
- Check your child's grades using Power School <http://aps.elmhurst205.org>
- Academic Study Hall is offered for any student after school Monday – Thursday from 3:30-4:15 in room 110E.
- The Computer Lab is also open for all students after school Monday – Thursday from 3:30-4:15.
- Help sessions are offered by teachers at various times (before school, during lunch, and after school). Please encourage your child to utilize this opportunity when appropriate.
- Just a reminder, the front of the agenda has all of the school policies.

Encourage a growth mindset. The process of success is a cycle of learning, struggling, and improving!

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What does a typical night of homework look like?

6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Homework time varies.• With your child, look at his/her agenda book. Make sure he/she knows what he/she needs to complete or which upcoming tests to study for. Review his/her agenda book at the end of homework time to make sure your child completed all the work.• Ask your child to explain his/her homework and/or notes (especially with math-look over his/her notes/examples to ensure your child is completing the work the way the teacher has instructed).• To help with studying for quizzes/tests- ask your child questions, review/quiz vocabulary, ask your child to see review worksheets or study guides with the list of topics to know.
7	<p>English</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All major papers are written in class; revisions on a paper could be done at home.• We would like students to read at least 20 minutes each night. <p>Math</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Homework should take about 15-30 minutes each night and never more than an hour unless the student is studying and chooses to spend more than an hour. <p>Social studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Homework should last about 20-30 minutes 1-2 days per week. <p>Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Homework should last about 10-20 minutes 1-2 days per week <p>If your child is struggling for more than 20 minutes on a specific question/assignment, then it's time for you to step in (see suggestions in FAQ). An exception might be for Reach math where on occasion students will receive new concepts to investigate at home before instruction in class. If a child struggles for more than 30 minutes, have him/her stop and show his/her teacher the next day how far he/she got.</p>
8	<p>English</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All major papers are started in class; revisions may be completed at home.• We would like students to read at least 30 minutes each night. <p>Math</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Homework is very dependent in which course a student is taking. Homework should take about 30 minutes each night and never more than an hour unless the student is studying and chooses to spend more than an hour. <p>Social studies/Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Homework should last about 20-30 minutes 1-2 days per week. <p>Generally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have a conversation with your child about what he/she is reading and writing.• If your child asks for help, parents can help, but encourage independence and self-advocacy.• Encourage your student to seek help from his/her teacher (self-advocate).• Many teachers are using Google Classroom.

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If your child reports a school-based complaint, who do you contact?

When to contact the teacher (preferably by email)	When to contact the counselor or social worker	When to contact the principal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic concerns • Behavioral problem in the classroom • Classroom specific problem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social or emotional concern • If you see drastic changes in your child's behavior/emotions/classroom performance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavioral problem outside of the classroom • Teacher is not addressing the issue/concern that was presented to him/her first • School or district policy concerns/questions

Frequently Asked Questions:

- How should parents support their child in academics without running the risk of doing it for him/her?
 - Know that it's okay for a child to struggle; it's part of the learning process and kids should be encouraged to persevere through their struggles.
 - Ask your child where he/she thinks he/she can look for answers/help.
 - Avoid asking yes or no questions.
 - Encourage the importance of figuring out the answer on his/her own. Ask guiding questions might help your child toward solutions.
 - Offer an example of a similar problem as a model that is simpler that the child can answer and then extend to the given problem (particularly in math).
- What should a parent do if he/she thinks his/her child needs more help or is unable to help?
 - Encourage child to talk to his/her teacher and ask for help.
 - Look at the teacher's webpage for any help offered. There may be specific resources for the class or external websites to access for help.
 - Have your child email the teacher with questions.
- How often should parents check Power School?
 - Weekly or every other week. Teachers are encouraged to update grades weekly.
 - You can customize the settings to have updated grades sent to you automatically.
 - Please note: Teachers who have weighted grades (for example: assessments worth a great percentage of student's grade) may have one assignment that can drastically impact your child's grade.
 - Parents are encouraged to look at Power School with your child and have a conversation about how classes are going rather than parents checking and then going to the child with the information/questions. This is to support building your child's independence.
- What do I do if my child is complaining about school?
 - Ask your child to give you a specific, concrete example of what actually happened.
 - Ask your child questions to dig deeper. Try to process the issue and problem solve solutions.
 - Please acknowledge that we want to work with you for the benefit of your child. If a problem arises please hear our side of the story and then we can discuss solutions with all of the facts.
 - See the chart as to who to contact if you need to contact someone at school.