

Eisenhower Homework Guidelines

The students at Eisenhower work very hard at school from 8:40 to 3:10 each day. We understand that the typical life of a child and family outside of school is busy as well. Kids are engaged in so many activities, sports, doing homework, and also being together as a family. Based on current research and feedback from the teachers and community (SAC), we have decided to update our homework guidelines at Eisenhower Elementary.

Current research on homework (Kohn, Hattie, Cooper) has revealed that there is little evidence that homework directly contributes to academic achievement. However, there is a lot of research on the amount of time spent on reading contributing to academic achievement. We are concerned that all the other “stuff” has taken away from time to read.

Our Vision

Our vision is to drastically reduce (but not entirely eliminate) the amount of assigned homework in favor of more reading at home and time to allow students more time to play outside, participate in activities, pursue other passions and interests, spend time with family and sleep. We encourage students to engage in self-learning. Each month through newsletters we will offer ideas of projects and activities students can do at home. We still believe that it is important that students build good study habits that will benefit them in middle and high school. We want our students to love to learn and read!

Why Focus on Reading?

Independent Reading “increases the volume of reading, understanding of complex texts, increased knowledge of word and language, and learning about the people and happenings of our world.”

Read more at [NCTE Statement on Independent Reading](#).

Reading makes kids better at math, helps children be more empathetic, can boost self-esteem and communication skills, and changes the structure of the brain. Read more about it here:

<http://www.edudemic.com/skipping-your-reading-homework/>

We want all students, K-5, to read an average of 30 minutes per night for 5 nights a week (150 minutes per week). Classroom teachers will let you know how they want the time recorded. The time includes anytime the student is interacting with text, such as reading on their own, another person reading with them, listening to reading (audiobooks, etc), or online reading such as Reading A-Z, etc. All of these are very beneficial!

Here are some other ideas for reading at home:

[Reading at Home English](#)

[Reading at Home Spanish](#)

Homework at Eisenhower may include the following:

- Work that your student did not finish during the school day
- Authentic learning opportunities like home-based projects

- Special assignments that reinforce a learned skill
- Accelerated 6th grade math class practice (5th graders)