January 10, 2022

Dear Elementary School Families,

In the spirit of providing equitable learning opportunities for our elementary school students and families at home through research-based homework practices, we have developed the attached Elementary Homework Guidelines as a reference for all teachers to use. At this point in time, these guidelines are in draft form. With that said, we have provided our teachers the flexibility to begin aligning their homework practices to the attached guidelines as we return from winter break.

As a result, you may notice some changes in homework expectations in your child’s classroom. This soft roll out of the guidelines helps us in three ways:

1. Gives teachers time to adjust to the guidelines before fully adopting them for the next school year.
2. Allows us to receive feedback from parents, students, and teachers on the updated guidelines.
3. Provides us time to adjust as necessary before the start of the new school year.

The guidelines were developed in collaboration with grade level representatives across all three elementary schools including the building principals. They are grounded in research and focus on the homework practices that are most impactful for each grade level. Although we use electronic devices for many purposes throughout the course of the school day, students will not need to use their devices at home for homework. The ONLY expectation for use of the device at home is to plug them in at night to ensure they are charged for the next day’s use.

Please take some time to review the guidelines. If you have any specific questions, comments, or concerns regarding the guidelines you can provide us with feedback by clicking here. If there are elements of the guidelines that you really like, please share that too!

Thank you,

Annaliese Spaziano
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment
East Lyme Public Schools