

Homework Guidelines

Twin Lakes Elementary School and the school community believe that homework plays a critical role in teaching and learning. It also provides an excellent opportunity for parents to become aware of their child's daily academic experiences.

The purpose of homework is to strengthen academic skills and reinforce concepts taught by teachers. Appropriately assigned homework not only improves student achievement, it also develops time management skills, self-discipline, independence, personal responsibility, and the ability to follow directions and prioritize.

Amount of Homework

To promote consistency and fairness, these are guidelines for the amount of time; however, teachers may vary in their beliefs and system for assigning work. For example, some teachers may choose not to assign work over the weekend or during holiday periods.

Kindergarten	Varies per weekday
First Grade	Varies per weekday
Second Grade	15 minutes per weekday
Third Grade	15 minutes per weekday
Fourth Grade	up to 40 minutes per weekday
Fifth Grade	up to 50 minutes per weekday

These time frames do not include the 15 – 20 minutes per night of recreational reading that is recommended. Also, some teachers may assign a specific amount of additional time for reading.

Reading for pleasure in itself is an extremely important pastime that has a great impact on a student's success. The research is clear that students who read regularly are more successful in school. It is important for teachers and parents to continually encourage students to read more and often.

Student's Role and Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the student to record their daily homework assignments in their Planner and circle any assignments that need to be completed at home and place a checkmark on any assignments that are completed. Students are encouraged to seek clarification about homework assignments they feel are unclear. It is their responsibility to complete homework and return it at the time it is due. Students at all levels who are experiencing difficulty with their homework are encouraged to seek help from their teachers.

It is incumbent on parents in the early grades and students themselves as they mature to request homework assignments missed based on absences. Students who are ill may take it upon themselves to complete homework while staying home, depending upon the illness.

Parent's Role and Responsibilities

It is the parent's role to reinforce the importance of homework and encourage home completion in a timely manner. Parents are asked to check that the student's homework is completed daily and also to sign their daily planner indicating that any assigned homework is complete. Parents need to monitor their child's homework. If parents set rules within their home that define where, when and under what conditions their child needs to complete their work, the task becomes more routine and less cumbersome. It is essential that parents provide guidance for their child, not answers. Parents are encouraged to find out more specifics about individual teachers procedures and requirements when a child is absent.

Homework Tips for Parents

- Express to your child the importance of a good education and the value of doing homework.
- Make sure your child has a quiet, well-lit place to do homework. Make this location a permanent one.
- Watch your child for signs of frustration. Suggest a short break and then return to the task.
- If your child is struggling to complete an assignment, you may need to contact your child's teacher.
- At various times during the school year, positively reinforce how well your child is doing.
- Check Parent Portal frequently to monitor the student's academics and any missing assignments.