



Elementary Homework Policy

Structure, organization, reinforcement, responsibility are just a few benefits students reap when completing homework. Parents are the key in making homework a positive experience for their children. Your role as a parent is to offer the best environment possible for students to complete assigned homework.

The following is a list of ways you can ensure success and make the time spent on homework meaningful for your child.

- **A quiet, uncluttered place to do homework:** If possible, your child should do his/her homework at a place that is free from distractions. Have all of your materials readily available in a central location (pencils, paper, erasers, etc.).
- **A schedule for completing homework:** Children thrive on routines. Set a homework schedule with your child that works best for your family. It is best to do homework as soon as your child comes home. The longer you wait the easier it is to become distracted.
- **Encouragement and Motivation:** A parent's role in homework completion is to support and encourage their child's efforts. Children need to practice what they have learned in class *independently*. If your child consistently cannot complete homework assignments alone, please let your child's teacher know so future assignments can be adjusted.
- **Time Expectations:** Below is an estimate of how much time should be spent on homework. If you feel your child is spending an exorbitant amount of time on homework, please contact their teacher.
 - Kindergarten: About 15 minutes per night, in addition to, reading.
 - Grades 1 - 4: About 30 minutes per night, in addition to, reading, math facts, and spelling practice with occasional special projects.
 - Grade 5/6: About 45 minutes per night, in addition to, reading, math facts, and spelling practice with occasional special projects.



If your child does not complete the assigned homework in the allotted time frame, parents may sign the unfinished homework noting that the assignment was attempted.

***Note: Reading time can be met by your child reading to you and/or you reading to your child, regardless of grade-level.**

- **Bedtime:** Adequate sleep time plays a critical component in academic success. Homework completion should never interfere with a child's bedtime. If this becomes a pattern in your household, adjustments may need to take place.
- **Vacation:** Though taking extended vacations during the school year is discouraged, there may be a circumstance where this is unavoidable. An elementary vacation packet will be provided to students to complete while away from school. Since AGCS has a discovery-based approach to learning it can be difficult to assign "vacation work" to be completed outside of school. The vacation packet will consist of grade-level/multi-age activities. Please contact your child's teacher for more information.
- **Final Words on Homework:** Homework is intended to reinforce what students are learning in the classroom. Below is an excerpt from the Center on Public Education:

The link between homework and student achievement is far from clear. There is no conclusive evidence that homework increases student achievement across the board. Some studies show positive effects of homework under certain conditions and for certain students, some show no effects, and some suggest negative effects (Kohn 2006; Trautwein and Koller 2003).

Homework appears to have more positive effects for certain groups of students:

- **Older students benefit more from homework than younger students.** Some studies have shown that older students gain more academic benefits from homework than do younger students, perhaps because younger students have less-effective study habits and are more easily distracted (Cooper 1989; Hoover-Dempsey et al. 2001; Leone and Richards 1989; Muhlenbruck et al. 2000).
- **Students with learning disabilities** benefit from homework under certain conditions. Students with learning disabilities can benefit from homework if



appropriate supervision and monitoring are provided (Cooper and Nye 1994; Rosenberg 1989).

- **Homework may have nonacademic benefits.** Certain nonacademic benefits of homework have been shown, especially for younger students. Indeed, some primary-level teachers may assign homework for such benefits, which include learning the importance of responsibility, managing time, developing study habits, and staying with a task until it is completed (Cooper, Robinson and Patall 2006; Corno and Xu 2004; Johnson and Pontius 1989; Warton 2001).
- **Too much homework may diminish its effectiveness.** While research on the optimum amount of time students should spend on homework is limited, there are indications that for high school students, 1½ to 2½ hours per night is optimum. Middle school students appear to benefit from smaller amounts (less than 1 hour per night). When students spend more time than this on homework, the positive relationship with student achievement diminishes (Cooper, Robinson, and Patall 2006).

- See more at: <http://www.centerforpubliceducation.org/Main-Menu/Instruction/What-research-says-about-the-value-of-homework-At-a-glance#sthash.nOD7mU9w.dpuf>