

GRADE LEVEL GUIDELINES

The following guidelines relate to the amount of uninterrupted time that a child spends on a task. Teachers may adjust these guidelines to a child's needs; a child's learning style may vary the time being devoted to assignments. Our homework guidelines provide general estimates for children to complete assignments. If the time it takes your child to complete homework varies significantly from the grade level guidelines, please speak with the classroom teacher.

READING

For all students, reading is a daily homework requirement. The daily reading assignment is included in the total time estimate required for daily homework. This includes reading to your child, reading with your child, a child reading to a family member, or a child reading independently. The amount of reading time increases across the school year as children increase their reading stamina.

KINDERGARTEN

There is no regularly assigned homework. Homework assignments are to be given occasionally to help develop a sense of responsibility and carryover between home and school related projects. Activities that pertain to sounds or letters are examples. Reading to and with your child each day will help to develop good reading habits.

FIRST GRADE

Short homework assignments may be given to reinforce classroom objectives. Children may be asked to complete classroom work with parental supervision. Parents are asked to help children develop responsibility for materials and belongings. Reading to and with your child for approximately 15 minutes each day, in the beginning of the year and up to 30 minutes by the end of first grade, will help to develop good reading habits.

SECOND GRADE

Children receive regular language arts and math assignments. Children may be asked to work on special projects or activities. Children are expected to read for approximately 30 minutes each night. In total, students are expected to spend approximately 40 minutes completing daily homework.

THIRD GRADE

Students are expected to read for approximately 30 minutes each night. An additional 20-25 minutes of homework may be assigned. Examples include: spelling, math homework, and practicing math facts. Children may be asked to work on special projects or activities.

FOURTH GRADE

Approximately 45 to 60 minutes of homework (in total) is assigned each night in the subject areas. Students are expected to read for 30 to 45 minutes each night. Children will be asked to work on daily assignments as well as long term projects.

Absence Information

Parents should notify the school when they know that their child will be absent.

If a student is legally absent [defined by New York State laws as emergency activities such as illness and death in the family] from school for more than one day, parents of 3rd and 4th graders may request assignments by phoning their school's main office by 10:00 a.m. on the morning of the second day of absence. Assignments may be picked up after school in the main office.

If a student is illegally absent [defined by New York State laws as non-emergency activities such as vacations, occasional employment, athletic events, and/or Take Your Child To Work Day] from school, parent requests for extra planning and preparation by teachers to accommodate such absences will not be honored. Students who are illegally absent should keep a written record of their experiences and fulfill their daily reading requirement. Teachers are not expected to provide homework assignments for students who are illegally absent.



**Chappaqua Central
School District**

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Homework Elementary Guide

Philosophy

Learning takes place at home as well as at school. Homework is primarily a student's responsibility; it has different purposes at each grade level. For younger students, it fosters positive attitudes, habits and character traits. For older students, it also facilitates knowledge acquisition in specific topics.

Homework helps students:

- Develop organizational and study skills
- Become independent learners and critical thinkers
- Develop initiative, self-direction and a sense of responsibility
- Strengthen previously taught skills
- Develop time management skills

For all students, reading is a daily homework requirement. This includes a parent reading to a child, a child reading to a family member, or a child reading independently.

ORGANIZE HOMEWORK AND SET PRIORITIES

A homework session should begin by reviewing the day's assignments. It is probably a good idea to draw up a list of daily and long-term assignments on a separate sheet of paper, so that you can help your child prioritize and divide longer tasks into shorter ones. The steps to follow might be:

1. Check the day's assignments.
2. Check long-term assignments and tests for which your child should begin studying.
3. Make sure your child brought home the necessary books, worksheets, etc.
4. Have your child decide in what order the work will be completed.
5. Help your child estimate how much time it will take to complete the work.
6. Make sure you have allowed enough time for your child to complete all homework, allowing for break time as necessary.

You might find it helpful to put together a calendar to keep track of activities and other obligations such as sports events, doctors' appointments, scout meetings, chores, or family events. Once each week (Sunday afternoon might be appropriate), sit down with your child and complete the weekly/monthly calendar together. Then, as you plan homework time each day, you can reference this calendar to allow time for other activities involving your child

YOUR ROLE.... HELP OR SUPERVISE?

Many parents, particularly those of children who may be struggling in school, wrestle with the question of how much help they should give their children on homework. The following suggestions are offered:

1. Parents may want to discuss with their children the nature of the assignment, to make sure they understand what they are supposed to do, and to guide them as they do the first one or two items of an assignment. Parents should not have to remain by their child's side throughout the entire session. If your child seems to require this, you may want to build in an incentive for working independently to wean your child off reliance on you for support or assistance. Setting the kitchen timer and telling your child to wait until it rings to show you the work or to ask questions is one way to gradually increase independence.
2. Parents may want to review homework assignments to check for neatness and accuracy. If the handwriting is illegible (and your child is capable of writing more neatly without an inordinate amount of effort), it is acceptable to ask your child to rewrite the assignment. If your child is ready to learn to proofread or to check for mistakes, you may want to hand the paper back with a comment such as "I found these mistakes on your math page," or "Please look for spelling errors." If your child is not ready for this, point to the specific mistakes and ask your child to correct them (without giving the correct answer).
3. You might want to talk to the teacher if your child appears to be spending too much or too little time on assignments. Please refer to the grade-level guidelines that relate to the amount of uninterrupted time to be spent on homework.

FIND THE RIGHT PLACE TO WORK

In some families, having a central location where all children in the family do their homework is best. In other families, each child has his/her own study place. Some like to work with the radio on (and this helps them focus), while others are distracted by this kind of background noise. Think about possible distractions that will need to be avoided (e.g., a nearby television, the telephone) when planning your child's work space.

GATHER NECESSARY MATERIALS

To help your child save time gathering materials, stock your child's study area with the materials he/she is likely to need (e.g., a dictionary, appropriate references, pens, highlighters, scissors, glue, tape, colored pencils, stapler and staples, ruler, paper).

PRACTICE! PRACTICE...

From kindergarten through fourth grade, you will see tremendous growth in your child's literacy development. While your child will receive a lot of educational guidance from teachers, remember that you play a major role in your child's success in reading and writing at every stage of development.

Reading is a daily requirement for all students. Read to and with your child for 20-30 minutes each day. Create opportunities to read aloud to your child by choosing books that he or she may enjoy and may or may not be able to read independently. Have a conversation about what you are reading. When reading independently, your child should choose EASY books. Reading easy books at an independent level will help develop your child's fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

Writing is an important activity that significantly contributes to language and reading development. Find opportunities to incorporate writing into your child's daily activities. Some suggestions include: write about what you read, write letters to friends and relatives, create grocery lists and make labels.

...Practice!