

HOMWORK GUIDELINES

River Edge Public School

River Edge, New Jersey

River Edge Public Schools' Homework Philosophy:

Educators and parents recognize that homework is exercise for the mind.

- Homework extends classroom learning and increases the amount of learned content and provides reinforcement.
- Homework helps students to synthesize and integrate what they have learned in the classroom. In some cases it helps a student to work at his/her own pace.
- Homework permits more productive use of class time. It provides a link between school and home, giving parents an opportunity to be informed about their child's progress.
- Homework encourages students' self-discipline and responsibility and develops time management skills.
- Homework helps students develop study habits and skills of concentration which are used throughout life.

Educational research indicates that homework does improve student performance whether measured by test scores or grades. It is recognized that the time required to complete assignments varies with the topic as well as with the age of the child.

The professional staff acknowledges these variables and adjusts homework assignments accordingly. The information provided in the following pages serves as a guide. It was prepared by teachers, parents and administrators who recognize and appreciate teaching styles, learning styles and the demands placed on students' and families' time.

TYPES OF ASSIGNMENTS

Various methods may be employed in developing homework assignments. Homework may involve some written work, it may be purely study, or it may be some form of individual or group activity. At times, it may be necessary for teachers to give assignments over longer periods than day-to-day requirements. Listed below are examples of assignments.

1. **DRILL AND PRACTICE** - This may be used to improve or increase speed.
2. **RESEARCH** - This type of assignment gives students practice in the use of encyclopedias, maps, charts, graphs, and other resources. It makes the student aware that knowledge is not confined to the textbook, nor learning to the classroom.
3. **READING** - Such assignments may be short and purposeful, as in text or supplementary books, or long-term responsibilities, as in completing required reading for the period and reporting on it. In either case, specific study habits, reading skills, and personal responsibilities are expected as valuable outcomes. Reading is part of each student's daily activities in addition to his/her homework assignment.
4. **WRITING** - This may be a response to a lesson, an assignment, and an expository or creative writing composition. It provides student writers more time on task and a better comfort level with writing.
5. **PROJECT WORK** - This is important in developing initiative, creativity, and personal responsibility. It is generally a long-term assignment based on the student's interest. There are times when project work may be assigned on purely voluntary basis for those students who show special interest.
6. **OBSERVATION** - This is not necessarily written work, but contributes to a lesson's value. Students might be asked to observe and reflect on something in their environment or surroundings.
7. **STUDY TIME/TEST PREPARATION** - It is expected that all students learn the value of preparing for a test. It may also be time used to reflect on the day's lessons.

SUGGESTED TIME ALLOTMENTS

Homework time varies for each student and each grade level. When establishing an “average length” for assignments, it must be realized that quality comes before quantity. The amount of time necessary to do a lesson varies for each student. Some students complete assignments with no interruptions, while others procrastinate or find other distractions.

GUIDELINES

Kindergarten	5 - 10 minutes	3 - 4 times a week
Grade 1	10 - 15 minutes	3 - 4 times a week
Grade 2	10 - 30 minutes	3 - 4 times a week
Grade 3	20 - 40 minutes	3 - 4 times a week
Grade 4	30 - 60 minutes	3 - 4 times a week
Grade 5	40 - 60 minutes	3 - 4 times a week
Grade 6	45 - 75 minutes	3 - 4 times a week

Students, as do adults, have diversified activities during weekends and holidays, such as home chores, social, athletic, family, religious obligations and other leisure time activities. Generally, weekend and holiday assignments are not given. Students who desire to devote additional time to schoolwork may do so through choice by working on long-term projects or doing extra reading. Leisure reading is always encouraged.

HOMEWORK STANDARDS

Assignments are planned so that work can be completed in a reasonable amount of time. Parents are encouraged to notify the teacher if the homework cannot be completed on time.

The standards established by the teacher may have to vary with the type of assignments and with the individual differences of students. Homework, when submitted, should be:

1. Complete
2. Legible
3. On time

STUDENT ABSENCE

Parents should call the school to make arrangements for missed assignments. Homework assignments and necessary books will be in the main office by 3:15 PM.

In the event of prolonged absences, students will be given an appropriate amount of time to complete missed assignments.

School attendance is important for school success. Please consider the school calendar when making family vacation plans. When conflicts are unavoidable, please contact the classroom teacher at least two weeks before the scheduled absence.

TEACHER'S ROLE

A teacher will see that:

1. All assignments are explicit.
2. Students are given the opportunity to write down all homework assignments.
3. Homework is collected on time.
4. All homework is checked for completeness and accuracy.
5. Parents are informed if their child is not completing his/her work satisfactorily.

PARENT'S ROLE

Parents are as much a part of the homework process as are teachers. Parental interest makes an important statement to children. It says that you care and are interested in their schoolwork, and that school is important. The following is a listing of parent responsibilities concerning homework.

Parents should:

1. Set goals teach children to organize their time in order to complete long-term assignments.
2. Provide a good environment conducive to study.
3. Insist that homework be neat and complete.
4. If homework is not completed a student should have a note from a parent or guardian explaining the reason. The note may be written directly on the assignment.
5. Communicate with the teacher if there is evidence of a problem with schoolwork.