

Plainedge Public Schools Elementary Homework Guidelines

Philosophy

Homework in the Plainedge Public Schools is an essential part of our educational program. Homework assignments are intended to reinforce and extend learning initiated in the classroom and serve as a tool for teachers to assess student understanding of classroom instruction. Homework can motivate students to develop good work habits and time management skills, while increasing the opportunity for individual initiative and responsibility. Homework can also stimulate creativity, critical thinking, independent judgment and awareness that learning can take place outside of the classroom. The guidelines below indicate how students, parents, teachers and administrators all have a responsibility for the success of homework.

Guidelines for Students

- Understand assignments clearly before leaving class. Ask questions if necessary.
- Ensure that you have access to the assignments (either through district website, agenda book, homework buddy).
- Bring home the proper materials to complete the assignments.
- Always do your best work and hand in completed assignments on time.
- Budget time properly for long-term assignments.
- Complete any work missed due to absence from class.
- Understand how homework will affect your class grade.
- Keep in mind that studying for tests is a type of homework assignment.
- Talk to your parent(s) and teacher(s) if you are having difficulty with homework.
- Review your homework folder and/or agenda nightly with your parent/guardian.

Guidelines for Parents

- Be familiar with the individual teacher's homework policy.
- Be sure to review your child's homework folder and/or agenda nightly to be aware of assigned homework and any school communication (ie: tests that need to be signed and returned, etc.).
- Ensure that your child understands the importance of homework. Be a positive motivator.
- Provide a time and place to do homework assignments with limited interruptions.
- Free reading is as important as assigned homework. A great way to model positive behavior is to read your own book while your child reads his or her book.
- Watch your child for signs of failure and frustration. If your child asks for help, provide guidance, not answers. If frustration sets in, suggest a short break. If your child is unable to complete the work due to the difficulty level, be sure to send in a note with the homework.
- Contact the teacher with questions or concerns especially if your child exceeds the allotted time frame.
- Parents should not excuse students from completing homework except in extreme situations (death in family, religious holiday, sickness, etc.).
- Homework should not be requested prior to unexcused absences (ex: family vacations during school days). Work will be given upon return.
- Contact your child's teacher to see what homework resources are available. The district website contains a variety of online resources, and homework help can be arranged through a variety of sources (ex: the High School Honor Society, Middle School Success Club as well as the Plainedge Library).

Guidelines for Teachers

- Assign homework on a regular basis in keeping with these guidelines.
- All homework assignments should be explained clearly.
- Ensure that students can access assignments through the district website, homework sheets or agenda books.
- Ensure the homework assigned is varied. Homework is a great way for kids to practice things learned by rote (spelling, math facts, and foreign language). It is also a great way to show kids that what they learn in school applies to things they enjoy at home (calculating batting averages, reading the back of a cereal box). Mix it up and allow for homework to appeal to varied learning styles.
- Teachers should coordinate assignments, tests, and projects with other teachers, when possible, to avoid overburdening students.
- Assignments should be discussed, checked and when appropriate, corrected and returned to students. Research indicates that one of the most influential elements in a child's education is timely feedback.
- Specific policies/practices of teachers must be clearly communicated to students and parents.
- Teachers should communicate with parents of students who are falling behind in completing homework assignments.
- Students absent from school should be given an appropriate amount of time to hand in assigned work without penalty once they return to school.

Guidelines for Administrators

- Ensure this guideline is disseminated using district approved methods (ex: website, agendas).
- Ensure implementation of homework guidelines.
- Assist teachers, when necessary, in implementing this homework policy.
- Review homework samples and assignments periodically in order to give feedback to teachers.
- Work with teachers and parents to enhance homework completion.

Time Frame of Homework Assignments

While it is understood that the time it takes to complete homework assignments will vary with each child, the times below are the general guidelines for each grade level. **If your child is having difficulty on a consistent basis completing assignments within the time frames established, please contact your child's teacher for assistance.** If you find your child has homework substantially less than what is outlined below, please also contact your child's teacher for assistance.

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Duration</i>
Kindergarten	10 minutes, plus 15 minutes of free reading (can be with a parent)
First	10 minutes, plus 15 minutes of free reading (can be with a parent)
Second	20 minutes, plus 15 minutes of free reading (can be with a parent)
Third	30 minutes, plus 20 minutes of free reading
Fourth	40 minutes, plus 20 minutes of free reading
Fifth	50 minutes, plus 20 minutes of free reading

**These timeframes are approximate. Projects and longer term assignments (research papers, etc.) may continue across several days, weekends, vacations.*

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Sources: *Plainedge School District Homework Committee*
Plainedge School District Homework Survey 2013
Braintree Public Schools Homework Policy
Herricks Homework Policy
North Shore Schools Homework Policy