

HOMEWORK

Specific Expectations and Guidelines

The Cape Elizabeth School Board acknowledges the varying application of homework amongst grade levels. A literature review of 20 studies highlights the striking influence of grade level on homework's effectiveness: high school students, in a class doing homework, outperform 69% of students in a non-homework class. For middle school students, the average homework effect was half this, or around 35% higher performance rates. In elementary school, homework had no effect on achievement, but gains in attitude.

Based on these findings and the above overarching philosophy, the following guidelines are suggested:

Grades 1-4 Up to ten (10) minutes per weekday for Grade 1 and an additional ten minutes for each successive grade level

- At this level, homework should be a short follow-up to classroom learning, teach beginning study skills, begin to introduce the concept of outside classroom learning, and inspire a love for learning.
- Parents should offer support and encouragement, however parents are not expected to provide instruction. If students reach the recommended time guideline and parents feel it is in their child's best interest not to spend further time, the parent may postpone completion of the assignment and should communicate with the teacher.
- Homework should not be used as a punishment (i.e. loss of recess to complete homework or extra work given as a negative consequence).

Grades 5-8 Up to fifty (50) minutes per weekday for Grade 5 and an additional ten minutes for each successive grade level

- Assignments should encourage higher level thinking, skill practice, and independent reading.
- Parents should offer support and encouragement, but limit assistance so that students become independent learners. If students reach the recommended time guideline and parents feel it is in their child's best interest not to spend further time, the parent may postpone completion of the assignment and should communicate with the teacher.
- Assignments should be limited to weekdays with the exception of long-range projects, and not given over vacations, with the exception of summer reading.

Grades 9-12 Up to 1-3 hours on average per day, depending on course of study and time of year

- At this level, students should complete their assignments without assistance from parents.
- Vacations are intended for rejuvenation, time to connect with family and friends, and have new experiences. Major projects or assignments should not be assigned to be performed entirely during school vacations, nor should they be due directly after a vacation. This does not apply to summer reading and writing.
- A student and/or parent can meet or communicate with a teacher about outstanding assignments for compelling reasons.

1st Reading:

File: IKB

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Administration will review the guidelines annually with staff at the start of the school year and distribute it annually to parents.

ADOPTED: December 13, 2005

Replaces original IKB

DELETED: February 11, 2014

ADOPTED:
