

## Homework Guidelines



Bourbonnais Elementary School District #53 is dedicated to preparing children to be responsible citizens, problems solvers, decision makers, and life-long learners. With a commitment to excellence in instructional programs, BESD #53 takes developmental stages of children into consideration. Research has clearly shown that homework has different purposes at different grade levels. We acknowledge the importance of current research in developing and implementing guidelines for homework that will maximize the opportunity for academic improvement. These guidelines are aligned with the most up to date national research on homework led by Dr. Harris Cooper at Duke University.

Every student (K-8th) needs to read or be read to by an adult for 15-20 minutes each night. Research clearly indicates READING is the most valuable thing children can do at home to increase their academic performance at school.

*Homework is viewed as separate and different from class work. If students are asked to complete class work at home, by definition it becomes homework and is graded and recorded as such. Class work will be used to determine mastery of content. Homework will be used to practice previously taught skills. Homework also provides teachers with valuable information as to where students are in the learning process, and allows for students to receive positive feedback on ways to increase learning.*

## Grade Level Expectations

**Grade K:** Students need to read, or be read to for 15-20 minutes every day.

**Grade 1: Students will:**

Read or be read to for 15-20 minutes.

Complete assigned math homework for up to ten minutes.

Total time: 25-30 minutes maximum.

**Grade 2. Student will:**

Read for 15-20 minutes.

Complete assigned math homework for up to fifteen minutes.

Total time: 30-35 minutes maximum.

**Grade 3. Students will:**

Read for 15-20 minutes.

Complete assigned math homework for up to twenty minutes.

Total time: 35-40 minutes maximum

**Grade 4. Students will:**

Read for 15-20 minutes.

Complete assigned math homework for up to twenty-five minutes.

Total time: 40-45 minutes maximum

**Grade 5. Students will:**

**Read for 15-20 minutes.**

**Complete assigned homework in core subjects areas (Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies) for up to thirty minutes.**

**Total time: 45-50 minutes maximum.**

**Grades 6: Students will:**

**Read for 15-20 minutes.**

**Complete assigned homework in core subject areas (Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies) for up to 45 minutes.**

**Total time: 60-65 minutes**

**Grades 7-8: Students will:**

**Read for 15-20 minutes.**

**Complete assigned homework in core subject areas (Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies) for up to 60 minutes.**

**Total time: 75-80 minutes**

### **Notable Exceptions to the Expectations**

- **15-20 minutes of reading should take place EVERYDAY year around!**
- **Students in A.T. or Accelerated classes may have additional work.**
- **Occasional projects throughout the year will require additional work at home.**
- **The times listed are guidelines for the average student. Each individual student works at their own pace so times may vary.**
- **Individual needs of a student may result in the parent and teacher collaborating to increase or decrease the normal homework amount for a particular student.**

### **Parents Need to Know**

**1. Current research clearly indicates that reading with primary students is a vital home activity that is proven to increase student achievement!**

**2. It is our goal as a district to support parents who diligently support their children as they complete homework. We do not want any child to become frustrated by the amount of homework or the inability to complete homework. If your child is struggling and homework is consistently taking much longer than expected, please contact your child's teacher to discuss these issues.**

**Please direct all questions to:**

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