



Policy Updates

PYE Homework Policy

Penn Yan Elementary has spent over a year studying the research on the impact of homework, talking with staff and parents, and reviewing our expectations for homework. The following are our shared beliefs about homework and information on what you can expect this school year. We hope the changes we have made in this policy provides enough communication and support for our PYE families, while putting the emphasis on how hard our students work during the day and how important family time together is at night.

We believe homework should be:

1. Minimal and not negatively impact family nights.
2. Specific to practicing foundational skills or personal organization.
3. Flexible to meet different student and family needs.

You can expect homework expectations for the 2017-2018 school year to be as follows:

1. Where possible, teachers will work toward **weekly** homework versus *nightly* homework. Families can have the flexibility to work with their child in a positive way that supports your nighttime routine and schedule.
2. Any assigned homework will practice skills and not require knowledge of that day's instruction (note: our 4th and 5th grade classrooms may have students complete an independent exit ticket in math to inform their instruction for the next day).
3. Weekly reading is *required* and an essential part of your child's development and learning. Reading logs will be used as a great way to keep track of your child as a reader and you can expect to see these come home regularly. We hope you are able to read with your child every night, but if you get busy, the weekly requirement is below to help keep families on track.

What we hope your night is fun and involves the following:

1. **Read with your child.**
Research shows that the single biggest impact on a student's reading development is the amount of time spent reading.
2. **Talk with your child.**
Make the connection as soon as you both are home to ask about his or her day.
Keep up-to-date with school information and discuss it regularly with your child.
3. **Play with your child.**
Board games, card games, or any other type of play where both of you are involved makes a HUGE difference in connecting with your child. Ask us for fun activities and strategies whenever you need!
4. **Eat with your child.**
Whenever possible, a nightly routine of working together to make meals and sitting down together to eat dinner can establish wonderful connections and conversations!

General Recommended Weekly Reading Times

Grade	# of minutes required weekly
K	50 (10 min x 5 nights)
1	75 (15 min x 5 nights)
2	100 (20 min x 5 nights)
3	125 (25 min x 5 nights)
4	150 (30 min x 5 nights)
5	175 (35 min x 5 nights)