



SyCamore Elementary

Homework Procedures



SyCamore Elementary has new homework procedures which focus on ways to increase student learning. Central to the guidelines is the focus on student opportunities for reading, applying writing skills, and practicing previously taught math skills. The primary purpose for homework in elementary school is to give students the opportunity to develop a sense of responsibility and accountability, engage in critical thinking, and develop good work habits. Homework can also serve as one form of communication between the teacher and the family. It is important that homework does not add stress to family life. Therefore, it is up to the student, family, and teacher to share the responsibilities for homework. Assignments generally provide additional opportunities for the child to practice skills learned in the classroom, and usually are short in duration and skill specific.

The most important element of homework in elementary school is reading. The goal of reading homework is to foster a love of reading. While sometimes specific reading assignments may be given, most of the time the student is allowed to read whatever material or genre he or she enjoys. Reading to students should be a part of reading every night no matter the grade level! In Kindergarten, the homework is for families and children to spend time together with books, reading aloud and having your child read to you or other family members as they become better readers.

At SyCamore Elementary School, we know that the amount of time it takes each student to complete homework assignments will vary. The following information indicates what we believe is approximately the appropriate amount of time for children in each grade to spend on homework.

Recommended Time Allotments for Homework Per Night:

Kindergarten and First:	15 – 20 minutes
Second and Third:	20 – 30 minutes
Fourth and Fifth:	30 – 45 minutes

Homework will not be assigned on weekends or during holidays. Reading independently and aloud should be a part of homework, but is up to the parent as to the duration and on what days.

Homework may also involve long-term projects, products, or performances that serve as a demonstration of student learning. Long-term assignments will be made well in advance of the due date and should include incremental checkpoints or benchmarks to help students complete them successfully.

Homework can also serve as just one form of communication between the teacher and the family. Homework is an important part of each student's academic year.

Student's Responsibilities:

- To understand all homework assignments by listening to directions, asking questions when something is unclear, and reading directions
- To gather all materials necessary to complete assignments before leaving the classroom
- To complete all assignments to the best of his/her ability
- To return materials and assignments on time
- To make up any missed homework that the teacher requires

Family's Responsibilities:

- To be aware of the student's homework assignments
- To provide a routine and environment that is conducive to doing homework (i.e. a quiet and consistent place and time, necessary materials, etc.)
- To offer assistance, to be supportive and encourage the student to do his/her best work
- To notify the teacher when homework presents a problem such as the amount of time your child spends doing homework.
- To read school notices and respond in a timely manner. Homework and school notices will travel home in the student's homework folder/binder. Regular backpack cleanups can be useful in helping students to organize their materials.
- Check PowerSchool on a regular basis to monitor student progress.

Teacher's Responsibilities:

- To provide purposeful homework in compliance with the grade level time allocations.
- To instruct students on how to develop good study techniques, study habits and the skills needed to complete homework assignments.
- To provide clear directions and instructions
- To communicate to the student and family what is expected for completing homework successfully.
- To review and acknowledge the receipt of homework assignments.

Homework for students of SyCamore Elementary School will:

- place a strong emphasis on reading,
- apply writing skills,
- practice previously taught mathematics skills,
- consider individual student needs, learning styles, and abilities in order for students to complete at home independently,
- relate to grade level standards and objectives,
- include clear instructions and expectations,
- be assigned regularly and in reasonable amounts,
- provide feedback for the student, and
- promote study skills.