

# Webster Parish Elementary School Homework Guidelines



**Homework** is defined as any task assigned to students by school teachers that is meant to be carried out during non-instructional hours. Examples of elementary assignments include:

- *Drill and practice exercises (spelling and vocabulary words, math facts, and computation)*
- *Reading*
- *Data Collection*
- *Hands on Projects*

## What Is the Right Amount of Homework

The National PTA and the National Education Association support the “10-minute homework guideline” which recommends 10 minutes nightly of homework per grade level.

This guideline does not account for students who may need to spend more time or less time on assignments. In class, teachers can make adjustments to support struggling students. At home, an assignment that takes one student 30 minutes to complete may take another student twice as much time for reasons often beyond his/her control.

Research states that a more effective activity may be nightly reading, especially if parents are involved. The benefits of reading are clear: If students are not proficient readers by the end of third grade, they are less likely to succeed academically and graduate from high school.

## Time Allotment

The maximum number of minutes that students are expected to spend on homework, including independent reading, per night per grade is as follows:

### *\*Times will vary*

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Written</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Total Minutes</b>
Kindergarten	10 minutes	5-10 minutes/with parents	15-20 minutes
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	10 minutes	10 minutes	20 minutes
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	10-15 minutes	10-15 minutes*	20-30 minutes
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	15-20 minutes	15-20 minutes*	30-40 minutes
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	15-20 minutes	15-20 minutes*	30-40 minutes
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	15-20 minutes	15-20 minutes*	30-40 minutes

Please contact the school if your child is spending an exceptional amount of time on homework on a daily basis. We can then work on a solution together.

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Homework assignments must be carefully planned by the teacher in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. The purpose of the assignment and its relation to what has been learned in the classroom will be clearly understood by the student.
2. Assigned independent reading shall not exceed the allotted time/night. Parents are encouraged to read with students. Reading logs should be used and signed by parent(s).
3. If students are departmentalized or have more than one teacher, assignments will be coordinated by the teachers to avoid exceeding daily time allotments.
4. Teachers will communicate regularly with parents to report incomplete homework assignments.
5. Teachers should monitor/check homework assigned to students to ensure that they have mastered the skills or information.

### Principal Responsibilities

- Communicating the WPSB Homework Guidelines to staff members, students, and parents/guardians
- Reviewing the Homework Guidelines with the total school staff
- Encouraging parents/guardians to communicate with the school if a student's assignments are excessive or not sufficiently challenging to the student, according to the parents'/guardians' views
- Monitoring the implementation of the homework guidelines
- Emphasizing reading as an integral part of the school's homework guidelines using a reading log for documentation
- Ensuring that teachers consistently check homework portfolios

### Teacher Responsibilities

- Clearly explain homework assignments.
- Post homework assignments on the board.
- Monitor completion of homework in a timely manner.
- Be mindful of students' obligations to home, community, and other school activities.
- Provide the student with necessary make-up work and assignments upon return to school.

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## Student Responsibilities

- Write homework assignments down each day and seek further explanation if needed.
- Place homework assignments in a designated folder.
- Complete assignments in a legible manner.
- Make sure parents have signed reading log **AFTER** reading has been completed.
- Return assignments on the following day or the due date.
- Study reading/spelling words and math facts daily.

## Parent Responsibilities

- Provide a suitable place and time for homework and studies.
- Encourage students to do his/her own work.
- Assist students with homework and mastery of specific skills, and check to see that homework is completed and placed in backpack.
- Sign reading log **AFTER** student has completed reading. Have students read to you.
- Notify the school of family emergencies so students will be given appropriate time to make up work.
- Make available, if possible, such resource materials as magazines, newspapers, dictionaries, or reference books.

A carefully planned program for homework assignments is an effective means of increasing student learning. A well planned program of homework activities provides another opportunity for the home and school to work together.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Principal's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date