

## 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 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.
- Homework should not be used as a punishment.
- If students reach the recommended guideline and parents feel it is in their child's best interest not to spend further time, the parent may sign off on the assignment.

Grades 5-8 Up to fifty (50) minutes 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.
- 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, depending on course of study

- At this level, students should complete their assignments without assistance from parents.
- Major projects or assignments should not be assigned to be performed entirely during school vacations. This does not apply to summer reading and writing.

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