



**Elementary**



**Homework  
Guidelines**

# Elementary Homework Guidelines

## OCSD Homework Philosophy

The Oswego City School District views the completion of assignments outside the classroom as an integral part of the educational process for all students. Homework promotes personal responsibility, encourages positive work habits, and affords students the opportunity to develop critical thinking skills while they complete work independently. In addition, homework communicates the school curriculum to parents and helps them to monitor the progress of their children. Homework given as practice should not be graded as a test or quiz.

## The Purpose of Homework

Homework is one of the many learning activities in which students engage; its purpose should be to:

- **Extend** learning and/or provide practice in applying concepts initially presented in the classroom.
- **Practice** opportunities for independent and guided work (depending on grade level and task.)
- **Strengthen** concept and skill development to be applied in the classroom.
- **Develop** initiative, responsibility, self-direction and organizational skills.



## Time Allotments

Kindergarten	<b>0-10</b>	minutes per night
Grades 1 & 2	<b>10-20</b>	minutes per night
Grades 3 & 4	<b>30-40</b>	minutes per night
Grades 5 & 6	<b>50-60</b>	minutes per night

- The guidelines do not include independent reading and basic math fact practice
- Times are approximate. Individual student's pace must be taken into consideration. We request that problems/concerns be communicated to the teacher.
- When enough time has been provided to complete class work, yet an individual has not completed the work, it may be assigned for homework, thereby exceeding the recommended time allotment.
- Students who miss regular instruction for a given period of time on a given day may receive assignments beyond the allotted time.

## Student Responsibilities

- It is the student's responsibility to be aware of assignments and to seek further explanation if needed.
- Students are responsible for having the books, papers, and materials necessary to complete the homework assignment.
- The student will organize his/her time to work on assignments with parental support as needed.
- The student will turn in assignments on time. The work will reflect his/her best effort.
- Students in grades 4-6 will be responsible for recording daily assignments in their student planners.

## Teacher Responsibilities

- Teacher will communicate the purpose and expectations of homework at the Fall Open House.
- Homework will grow from classroom tasks and projects or will focus on skill/strategy reinforcement.
- Assignments will be given after being clearly explained in class.
- Due dates will be given for all assignments.
- Specific projects/ assignments may be designated by the teacher as assessments and will be included in the academic grade.
- Teachers will communicate to parents about missing or incomplete assignments as needed.
- Homework will be checked for quality and completion.
- Homework will not be assigned the evening preceding designated holidays.

## Parent Responsibilities

- Provide a quiet study area.
- Provide a designated time for homework.
- Provide necessary materials.
- Encourage the children to complete homework on their own as much as possible and assist only as needed.
- Monitor your child's work for understanding.
- Communicate individual student needs with the teacher.
- Arrange with the teacher to secure assignments in the event of an absence.
- Assist your child with mastery of specific skills (i.e. math facts).
- Monitor your child's planner.