



Cumberland Elementary Homework Guidelines

The staff at Cumberland Elementary School believes that homework is effective when it is purposeful and accessible and that family time, extra-curricular activities, and self-guided time for students are critical to development of the whole child. When assigned, homework should align to the following goals, providing students with opportunities to:

- build fluency
- process and solidify key skills and information
- engage curiosity
- deepen knowledge
- allow for all aspects of social, emotional and intellectual growth to occur, including the learning that happens through family and other social interaction outside of assigned homework

Each grade level will determine the kinds of activities and the amount of time students spend on homework aligned to the goals stated above. Specific assignments may vary from classroom to classroom in response to student needs. Students will be taught and will practice techniques in the classroom around allocating time wisely, meeting deadlines and developing good study habits through short term and longer-term assignments. Each classroom teacher will speak about their specific homework policy during Back-to-School Night.

Supported by The National PTA and the National Education Association, we suggest following the “10-minutes per grade level” of homework as guidance. This includes daily reading and additional content-based practice when/if necessary.

Kindergarten/First Grade

The foremost expectation for homework is reading. Reading experiences will include students being read to by adults or peers, students reading with adults or peers, students reading books out loud to adults or peers, and, for advanced readers, silent reading. While all students are different, as a general guideline students should read about twenty minutes per night.

Occasional assignments may occur to practice or apply a learned skill. Teachers are encouraged to suggest, but will not require, family games, activities, and discussions to support mathematical and other content learning.

Second Grade/Third Grade

The foremost expectation for homework continues to be reading. Even when students begin to read with fluency and understanding, reading experiences will still include students being read to by adults or peers, students reading with adults or peers, students reading books out loud to adults or peers, and silent reading. While all students are different, as a general guideline students should read about thirty minutes per night.

Occasional assignments may occur to practice or apply a learned skill. Teachers are encouraged to suggest, but will not require, family games, activities, and discussions to support mathematical and other content learning.

Fourth Grade/Fifth Grade

Reading continues to be a focus for homework, and students will continue to interact with books in a variety of ways. Content reading may be assigned in these grades.

Teachers may assign mathematics homework when practice or enrichment is needed. Once a skill is mastered, a student should not be required to continue to practice the skill, other than to occasionally review this learned skill.

While all students are different, as a general guideline students should spend no more than forty - fifty minutes per night on all assignments, including reading, mathematics, and long-term projects (except when reading for pleasure).

*In addition, all grade levels assign occasional projects based on units of study within the classroom.



We encourage parents/caregivers to:

- review classroom newsletters/communication to gain an understanding of and to foster conversations with their child about what they are learning in school.
- ask students about the topics and projects highlighted in the classroom newsletters/communication to allow students to describe and explain their learning.
- allow children to try to complete their homework independently when it is assigned. We discourage parents/caregivers from correcting their students' homework, as student errors can provide valuable information to the teacher regarding what needs to be clarified or retaught.
- contact the teacher if your child is spending more than the "10-minutes per grade level" on homework other than reading for pleasure.

Students will have access to resource materials from the school learning resource center/library. For information on accessing assistance and/or tutoring through telephone help lines and/or after-school centers, we would recommend looking for resources online or visiting a local public library.

If parents/caregivers feel that their child is struggling with a particular topic and/or homework assignment or they have questions, we encourage them to email the teacher for clarification or to set up a meeting.

Occasionally, parents/caregivers are interested in additional homework resources beyond what is assigned/offered in class. As a school, we encourage families to consider providing a balanced after-school experience for their children. Providing opportunities for play can increase student wellness and provide important opportunities for building social skills. If you are interested in additional homework resources, we would recommend looking for free resources online or visiting a teacher supply store, such as Lakeshore, to find appropriate materials.

Vacations:

Homework is typically not assigned during school district approved vacation periods, except in the case of Independent Study or excessive absences.