

Fairwood Explorer Homework Policy

The staff at Fairwood Explorer believes that homework is effective when it is purposeful and accessible. As a result, the staff has developed a homework policy with the following goals in mind: providing students with an opportunity to build fluency, processing and solidifying key skills and information, engaging student curiosity, and deepening students' knowledge.

Expectations for Homework:

Each grade level has determined a reasonable amount of homework to help reach the goals stated above. Specific assignments may vary from classroom to classroom in response to student needs. Each classroom teacher will speak about their specific homework policy during Back-to-School Night. Grade level expectations for homework are as follows:

Kindergarten

Daily family reading 20 minutes per night and additional skills practice, as needed

First Grade

20 minutes per night

Includes daily reading and additional content based practice

Second Grade

30 minutes per night

Includes daily reading and additional content based practice

Third Grade

40 minute per night

Includes daily reading and additional content based practice

Fourth Grade

40 minutes per night

Includes daily reading and additional content based practice

Fifth Grade

50 minutes per night

Includes daily reading and additional content based practice

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

Role of Parents during Homework:

When keeping in mind the goal of homework at Fairwood, we encourage parents to allow students to try to complete their homework independently. We do encourage parents to look at their children's homework to gain an understanding of what students are learning in school. We also encourage parents to ask students about their homework to allow students to explain their thinking. We discourage parents from correcting their students' homework, as student errors can provide valuable information to the teacher regarding what needs to be clarified or retaught. If parents feel that their child is struggling with homework or they have questions about the homework, we encourage them to email the teacher for clarification or to set up a meeting.

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Developing Good Study Habits:

In order to support students in developing good study habits, teachers will provide each student with a take home folder, bag, or envelope to help them organize their supplies. Beginning in fourth grade, students use agendas to record homework daily.

At home, you can support your child's study habits by setting a consistent routine for homework, including a quiet space for working, a set of "homework supplies" to minimize distractions, and a designated time for completing homework.

Independent Research or Reports:

Occasionally, family or individual projects will be assigned to students. When this occurs, the teacher will provide clear guidelines for completing the project and a reasonable amount of time for completing the project. The teacher will also provide some class time for working on the project in case students have questions.

Resources for Homework Support:

Sometimes students need additional support with their homework. Here are some options for building homework support for your student.

1. Partner with another family in your child's class to create "study buddies."
2. Inquire with the Sunnyvale Public Library regarding resources for homework assistance. The library occasionally offers free resources to help students with homework.
3. Speak to your child's teacher if you feel that your child's homework is too challenging.
4. Occasionally, parents are interested in additional homework resources beyond what is assigned 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.