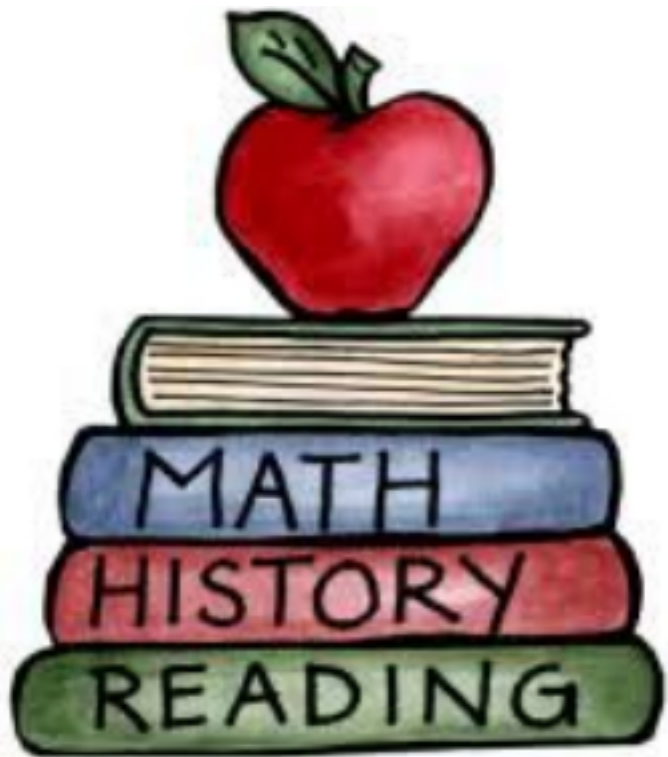


Homework Handbook

Two Rock
Elementary School



STUDENT HOMEWORK GUIDELINES

We have created this Homework Handbook so that families know what to anticipate in each grade when it comes to homework. We also want to share our thinking about the purposes of homework, and what families might do to extend activities beyond school. There is a wealth of research now on the best uses of homework and what is developmentally appropriate for each age group.

Parents and teachers value homework for a variety of reasons, including the following:

- Homework improves thinking and memory

- Homework helps develop positive study skills and habits that will serve students well throughout life
- Homework encourages students to use time wisely
- Homework teaches students to work independently
- Homework teaches students to take responsibility for their work
- Homework helps students to review and practice what has been covered in class
- Homework prepares students for what they will learn next
- Homework helps students learn to use resources, such as libraries, reference materials, and websites to find information
- Homework encourages students to explore subjects more fully than classroom time often permits
- Homework allows students to extend learning by applying skills to new situations
- Homework helps students integrate learning by applying many different skills to a single task, such as book reports or science projects
- Homework helps parents learn more about what students are learning in school
- Homework allows parents to communicate about what students are learning
- Homework prepares elementary students for middle school, high school and college

Two Rock Union School District teachers have agreed on an articulated transitional kindergarten – 6th grade homework policy for our school.

"All students will have nightly reading and math practice as needed, not to exceed 30 minutes each night."

Nightly reading may take different forms. In some grades, it may include pre-reading skill development and in other grades it may include a writing assignment. Math skill practice may also vary depending on the grade level. The focus will be on practicing skills already learned and not the learning of new material.

Our homework policy is the result of studying the research on the benefits and purpose of homework along with conversations with experts in the field. We believe that extracurricular activities and time with family and friends is a necessary component of every student's overall education and health. We believe this policy will reinforce needed study skills and provide for a healthy balance for our students.

In the following pages, we have outlined our general homework practices, expectations and rationale for each grade level so that we can collaborate to support all students in developmentally appropriate ways. We know how much you care about your child's education, and that homework is one of the ways that families know about what their child is learning. We hope this handbook is helpful!



Grade Level	What are the general homework practices and expectations? What kinds of assignments or activities should families expect to see given as homework?	What is the rationale for this approach at this grade level?	How can families help or participate? Is there any way to extend learning outside of school, besides homework, that fits the academic and developmental needs of our students?

All Students	Some practice outside of school is helpful, particularly reading all kinds of material, including newspapers, websites, novels, and nonfiction. As students mature, the amount and type of homework changes.		Lexia, IXL, and other online practice tools may be used up to 20 minutes a day at home. Reading together and discussing material using higher order, complex questions. Having experiences together, like taking walks, noticing and discussing the natural environment, cooking, and any experience that will give students context for new learning.
TK	Nightly reading and activities from the Transitional Kindergarten Homework Ideas sheet. These will be done by choice and no documentation is needed.	These activities will help children develop the foundational skills that will help them throughout their schooling in a low pressure environment.	Many of the activities inherently involve parent participation. Ask questions about their activities and encourage them to converse.
K	You should expect to see Letter of the Week homework, as well as other activities that reinforce the foundational skills taught in our program.	By assigning meaningful homework that is relevant to what is going on in class, we give parents a window into what their child is learning.	We suggest that students and families read, read, read and talk, talk, talk!
1	Nightly reading and practicing sight word recognition, occasional projects to work on together as a family, occasional assigned math and reading practice.	Research supports that students who do additional reading at home will have increased vocabulary and better foundational skills in spelling, comprehension and fluency.	Families can provide enriching experiences outside of school (i.e. taking hikes, going to the beach, cooking, making discoveries together, singing, reading nursery rhymes, visiting the library).
2	Nightly reading, spiral/standards-based review sheet for math.	Research supports nightly reading, review of 2nd grade standards to reinforce concepts	Anything you can do that relates to time, money and measurement would reinforce second grade math standards! Discuss

		taught at school and to provide students with additional fluency practice.	people who make a difference, and find ways to experience various habitats and the animals that live there as a family activity..
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<p>3</p> <p>3 continued</p>	<p>Third grade students will read every night at home and they'll have a weekly assignment(s) that extend learning from the classroom to be turned in on the specified date. This could include math, grammar, writing, spelling, social studies, and science. Unfinished classwork/ assignments may also come home if not completed in class and are expected to be turned in the next day.</p>	<p>Students will work on skills that reinforce the weekly standards-based learning that is going on in the classroom. This provides an additional opportunity at home to practice independent work skills and helps build responsibility.</p>	<p>As with second grade, activities that you can do that relate to time, money, and measurement will reinforce all grade level math standards. Any activities that encourage students to participate in real world experiences, which support these standards, can improve student growth enormously. Parents can help by setting aside a regular time and place for students to complete their homework each night, as part of a nightly routine. Parents are expected to look through the weekly Homework/Communication Folder every night with their student to help them organize, complete assignments, and receive important school and classroom notifications.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Homework that connects to classroom activity/lesson. Homework that provides practice of skills (math). Possible completion of classwork. Nightly reading.</p>	<p>To encourage students to make "real world" connections.</p> <p>To continue to build on skills.</p> <p>To allow extra time for classwork that is not complete.</p>	<p>Parent involvement/ participation is a huge part of student learning.</p> <p>Discussion/conversation between student and parent is extremely valuable.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>5th grade students will be reading nightly, engaging in rich tasks that relate to their nightly reading and doing hands-on projects to showcase their creativity and foster a love of learning.</p>	<p>Homework allows parents to see where their child is excelling as well as where their child is struggling. Homework should be meaningful and purposeful and supports your child's learning both in the classroom and in the community at large.</p>	<p>Family involvement is a critical piece in student learning. Please engage in rich tasks with your child, choose from homework suggestion activities and read, read, read!</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>In 6th grade, students will be reading for 30-45 minutes each night and a writing assignment each week. Additionally students will have work to reinforce concepts from class and to practice new skills. Classwork that is not</p>	<p>Homework in 6th grade is for students to practice their time management skills to complete work on time, as well as to build on skills learned in class and to connect that learning to "the real world".</p>	<p>Families can help their student succeed by taking an interest in and having conversations about what they are learning. Another way to help your student is to help them set up a designated homework area, one where they can focus and do their best!</p>

	completed may also be assigned.		
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