

Homework Policy and Grading

The purpose for assigning homework is to give students the opportunity to extend lessons, practice skills, engage in critical thinking and develop good work habits. Homework can also serve as one form of communication between the teacher and the family. It is important that homework does not add stress to family life. Therefore, it is up to the student, family, and teacher to share the responsibilities for homework. Homework is an important part of each student's academic year.

Student's Responsibilities:

- To understand all homework assignments by listening to directions, asking questions when something is unclear, and reading directions
- To gather all materials necessary to complete assignments before leaving the classroom
- To complete all assignments to the best of his/her ability
- To return materials and assignments on time
- To make up any missed homework that the teacher requires

Family's Responsibilities:

- To provide a routine and environment that is conducive to doing homework (i.e. a quiet and consistent place and time, necessary materials, etc.)
- To offer assistance to the student, but not do the actual homework
- To check that your child has edited his/her homework for spelling (Kindergarten and First Graders may use invented spelling as appropriate), punctuation, neatness, etc.
- To **notify the teacher when homework presents a problem**
- To read school notices and respond in a timely manner. Homework and school notices will travel home in the student's **RED** folder. Regular backpack clean-ups can be useful in helping students to organize their materials.

Teacher's Responsibilities:

- To provide purposeful homework
- To provide clear directions and instructions
- To implement a system for routinely checking homework
- To communicate to the student and family what is expected for completing homework successfully
- To communicate with families when students are not consistently completing assignments

Homework includes **reading** every night as we help each student develop the habit of being a lifelong reader and Math practice to develop newly learned skills. Written assignments over the course of a week may include a balance of assignments in other content areas such as writing, spelling, social studies, science, and long-term projects.

In Kindergarten: The homework is for families and children to spend time together with books. Often, especially in the beginning of the year, this will mean parents and family members reading aloud to children. As the year progresses and Kindergarten children bring more books from school to home, students may be reading to and with family members.

Recommended Time Allotments for Homework

At Penrose Elementary School we know that the amount of time it takes each student to complete homework assignments will vary. The following chart indicates what we believe is approximately the appropriate amount of time for children in each grade to spend on homework. If your child diligently does his/her homework for the maximum allotted time and does not complete it, you may write a note to the teacher explaining the situation. **If this is an on-going problem, please make arrangements to talk to the teacher.** If your child thoroughly and neatly completes the homework very quickly and you believe that your child needs additional homework, please contact the teacher, or feel free to add your own ideas like: a Writers Notebook, math facts, board games, handwriting, etc.

Grade Level	Minutes per night
Kindergarten and First	15
Second	20
Third	30
Fourth	40
Fifth	50

*Once your child has reached the above minutes per night, stop

Reminders/Quick Hits:

- If your child is struggling with homework, write the teacher a note, or make contact
- We will not assign homework over long breaks
- The parent/child relationship should not be affected by homework (don't fight over it). Contact the teacher.
- If your child does not complete homework AND we do not receive communication from a parent, the teacher may find an alternative time for your child to complete the needed practice.

Grading

Kindergarten: Kindergarten students are “graded” based upon developmental milestones in Teaching Strategies Gold.

1st & 2nd Grade: students are “graded” based upon proficiency of meeting Colorado Academic Standards utilizing the following scale

E= Exceeds expectations for the grade level.

Working consistently ABOVE grade level

P+= Working on grade level and meeting expectations

P= Working on grade level and meeting expectations

P-= Working on grade level

PP+= Almost working on grade level and almost meeting expectations

PP= Almost working on grade level and almost meeting expectations

PP-= Sometimes working below grade level

NP= Not Proficient, needs more time and practice

NA= Not Assessed

3rd, 4th, & 5th Grade: Students are “graded” based upon proficiency of meeting Colorado Academic Standards utilizing the following scale

A+	97-100
A	93-96
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
F	62 and below