

Homework Policy

The staff of Topanga Elementary School welcomes your involvement and concerns about homework. Our homework policy is designed to build good study and work habits including time management and organizational skills as well as providing students with the opportunity to revisit concepts covered in class. Assigned tasks are designed to be completed independently by students, however, showing your care and concern for your child's homework goes a long way in developing his/her work study habits.

Be sure to provide the basics:

- a regularly scheduled time and place to do homework; children flourish with a routine
- ensure all necessary materials are available to complete the task
- eliminate distractions: turn off the T.V. or stereo
- provide a spiral pad or booklet for your child to write down his/her assignments
- provide a folder or notebook to return the homework to school
- look in on your child frequently and monitor the actual work being done.

Homework at Topanga Elementary will adhere to L.A.U.S.D. Standards and the State frameworks with regards to subject, length and types of assignments.

District Policy

Kindergarten	15-20 minutes per day
Grades 1-2	30-35 minutes per day
Grades 3-4	35-40 minutes per day
Grades 5-6	50-60 minutes per day

Once your child has completed the mandated time, he/she may stop working whether or not the actual task has been completed. Be sure to reassure your child that he/she has achieved his/her daily homework goal. Please initial the upper right hand corner of each homework page to facilitate ongoing communication with your child's teacher.

Some examples of assignments your child may receive are:

- Reinforcement and Practice: work sheets, practice exercises
- Extensions: Taking a concept already taught and applying a higher level of thinking, changing the perspective, seeing it a new way i.e. open ended activities and or questions, character development: what would you do if... ? etc.
- Enrichment: Cooperative activities for parents and children i.e.. family histories, long term projects
- Independent Study (optional) also may be long term projects and may be research based, activity based, creative writing or a variety of techniques

In addition, teachers encourage each child to read or be read to for pleasure on a daily basis. The ideal time for this is often at bedtime where a relaxing environment can be created which fosters positive attitudes toward reading and family.

Homework should not be a stressful experience which causes conflict. Homework will be modified as necessary by classroom teachers to meet individual needs. Please do not hesitate to meet with your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns relating to homework.

Together we can achieve the ideal situation and have each child learn responsibility and develop a sense of accomplishment for a job well done.