

Eldorado Elementary School Homework Policy

At Eldorado Elementary School, homework should be meaningful and enhance the learning experience of our students. Here's an overview of our homework expectations across different grades:

Kindergarten through 5th Grade

- **Daily Reading:** We require all students from Kindergarten through 5th grade to engage in 20 minutes of sustained reading each evening.
- **Reading Log:** To track this reading, teachers will provide a reading log. Students are expected to fill out this log daily, and parents are required to sign it. This practice not only helps in maintaining consistency but also encourages parental involvement in their child's learning process.

5th and 6th Grade: Our 5th and 6th-grade students are preparing for the transition to middle school and have a different set of expectations:

- **Departmentalized Structure:** Students will experience a middle school-like environment, where they switch classes for different subjects.
- **Homework Expectations:** Homework will primarily consist of completing unfinished assignments and specific tasks based on their classes. This approach helps students develop time management skills and responsibility.

Optional Homework

In addition to the required reading:

- **Optional Homework:** Teachers will provide optional homework through students' Clever accounts. These additional activities are designed to supplement learning and offer extra practice in various subjects. Please read the weekly newsletters for information on optional additional homework activities and other important updates.

The Research Behind Reading vs. Traditional Homework

Research has shown that sustained reading has numerous benefits over traditional homework and worksheets, especially for younger students:

1. **Improved Literacy Skills:** Regular reading helps improve vocabulary, comprehension, and overall literacy skills.
2. **Love for Learning:** Encouraging reading fosters a love for learning and curiosity, which can lead to lifelong educational success.
3. **Family Involvement:** Reading logs help build a connection between school and home, encouraging parents to participate in their child's education.
4. **Mental Health Benefits:** Unlike traditional worksheets, reading is often less stressful and can be more enjoyable, reducing the pressure on young learners.

By structuring homework in this manner, we aim to balance academic growth with the well-being of our students. We believe that fostering a positive attitude toward learning at an early age sets the foundation for future success.