

Somerset Elementary School



The Purpose of Homework

Homework is one of the many learning activities in which students engage; its purposes should be to:

1. Extend learning and provide practice in applying concepts initially presented in the classroom
2. Provide opportunities for independent work
3. Strengthen concept and skill development
4. Provide opportunities for enrichment
5. Develop initiative, responsibility, self-direction and organizational skills

Planning and Assigning Homework

Homework should be planned and discussed cooperatively with students to:

- a) Help students see how homework is related to classwork and instructional objectives
- b) Help students understand that homework is reviewed for completion and can be used as a data point for task completion grade
- c) Ensure that the amount of homework (3 to 5 times per week) is appropriate to students' needs and abilities and that the total homework load from all the students' teachers is a reasonable one.

Suggested number of minutes on task each evening for homework completion:

Grade Level	Number of Minutes on Task Daily (Mon. – Fri.)
Kindergarten	15 min. on assignments + 15 min. shared reading
First Grade	15 min. on assignments + 15 min. independent/shared reading
Second Grade	30 min. on assignments + 15 min. independent reading
Third Grade	30 min. on assignments + 20 min. independent reading
Fourth Grade	45 min. on assignments + 20 min. independent reading
Fifth Grade	45 min. on assignments + 30 min. independent reading

Information Source: MCPS Homework Policies IKB and IKB-RA (MCPS website)

Revised 11/2012