

# Central Elementary School

## Homework

[Belmont-Redwood Shores School District Homework Policy](#) [Central School Homework Policy](#) [Parent Homework Tips](#)



### Redwood Shores School District Homework Policy

The Board believes that it is the responsibility of the District through the staff to initiate, support, monitor and evaluate homework. The Board further recognizes that homework is a vital component in the school life of children and is a life-long process. Extending the pursuit of educational success beyond the classroom into the student's home is to be encouraged by the District.

#### Purposes:

1. To encourage development of independent study habits, skills and responsibilities.
2. To reinforce, enrich and extend learning by providing a variety of educational opportunities outside the classroom.
3. To provide a transition of required amounts of homework between elementary and intermediate grades and between intermediate grades and high school.
4. To provide an additional opportunity for family involvement in the child's education.

#### Responsibilities:

1. The principal has responsibility to coordinate a homework plan implementing District policy with staff members and communicate this to parents.
2. The teacher has responsibility to communicate and explain expectancies for homework to students and parents and to monitor and evaluate homework.
3. The parent has responsibility to cooperatively support this portion of the educational program by encouragement and involvement with the student.
4. The student has responsibility to complete all assigned tasks.

#### Guidelines:

The type of homework assignment and length should vary according to the student's potential and need. The following times, therefore, are recommended as an average amount of homework to be given at the various grade levels, as needed:

Kindergarten and 1st grade	to be minimal based on teacher judgment
Grade 2	20 minutes 2 nights per week
Grades 3, 4 and 5	20 to 30 minutes per day 4 times per week

Legal reference: Education Code §51000 et seq. (General instructional programs, especially §51002: development of local programs within guidelines).



### Central School Homework Policy

Our goal is to extend the learning day with homework assignments consistent with the thinking curriculum.

#### Homework assignments should:

1. Prepare students for upcoming lessons (by asking them to gather data, attempt solutions to complex problems, write rough drafts, do background reading, or otherwise provide a story basis for in-class learning activities);
2. Extend classroom learnings (by transferring them to situations in the child's home environment); and
3. Create new understandings (by calling on students to create original work products that integrate or synthesize diverse skills or concepts).

All students in the elementary grades should be assigned on a regular basis, homework that piques their curiosity, taps their inventiveness and engages them in a variety of unpredictable learning adventures consistent with the thinking curriculum.

In answering the time-on-homework question, teachers must use their professional judgment. Clearly, the nature of the assignments themselves has an impact on how much time is appropriate. Homework that involves active explorations and includes peer or family participation provides an entirely different experience from assignments that focus on repetitions drills. It would be inappropriate, for example, to ask a first or second grade child to do an hour's worth of computational exercises, but an assignment to go to the store with mom or dad and help read and compare prices, add up the cost of items, count change, and so on could easily take longer but be entirely appropriate.

Many homework assignments do not require students to find the "one right answer." Rather, they invite students to find original solutions. For example, students might be asked to answer this question: How far is it around the block where you live? One child might attack the question by pacing off the distance. Another might measure the number of lengths with a garden hose. Still another might clip a card to a bicycle tire, counting the clicks that occur and multiply them times the tire's circumference. All students should be given time to discuss how they arrived at their solutions and compare the advantage of their different strategies. Such activities reinforce the notion that there are multiple pathways to a given intellectual destination. They also demonstrate that learning occurs everywhere -- not just in the classroom -- and that it is a lifelong endeavor.



[Top](#)

### Parent Homework Tips

Use these tips to ensure homework success for your child this year.

#### Set up a quiet, well-lit study area.

Designate a special area just for homework. Keep the area free from distractions.

#### Create a Homework Survival Kit.

Stock necessary school supplies (pencils, paper, ruler, glue, etc.) in a container. Replace supplies as needed and do not use them for other family needs.

#### Schedule Daily Homework Time.

Each week, determine what time homework will be done each day of the week. Post the schedule and see that you and your child stick to it!

#### Encourage your child to work independently.

Make sure homework is started and completed on time. Have your child call a friend if help is needed. Give help only if a real effort has been made.

#### Motivate your child with praise.

Build your child's self-confidence and motivation by praising him or her for:

- beginning homework on time.
- working independently.
- staying on task.
- doing his or her best work.
- making improvements.



[Top](#)