

Mount Pleasant ESD - Rethinking Homework K-5



What is the purpose of homework?

Homework should be practice; students should be able to do the work independently.

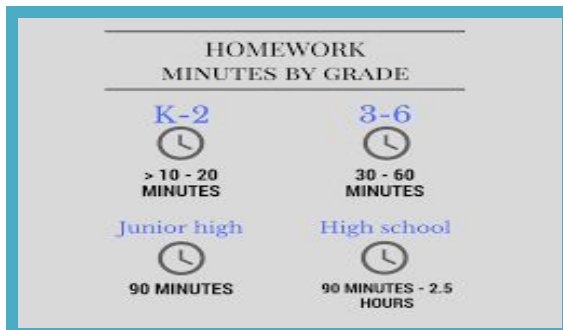


What is the role of the parent or guardian?



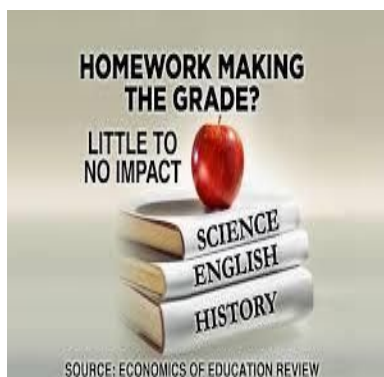
Don't complete the homework for the student. If homework is too difficult for the student to complete on his/her own, or is taking too long for the student to complete, write a note to the teacher.

How much time should students spend on homework?

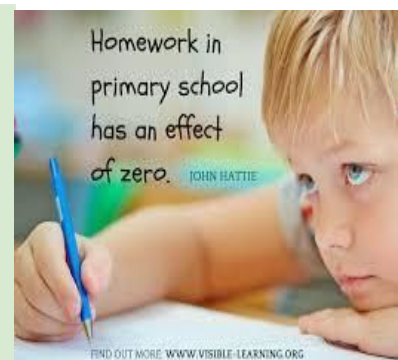


The majority of researchers and practitioners agree with adding 10 minutes of homework per grade, no more than an hour for upper elementary.

What does research say about student achievement and homework?

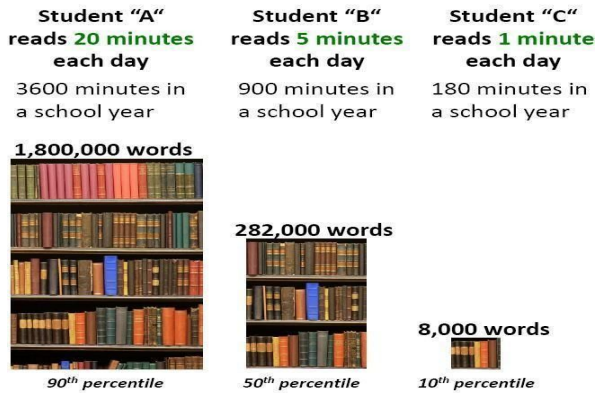


The research is mixed, some research identifies some correlations between homework and student achievement. Studies suggest that homework may be more effective for middle to high school students than K-5.



How is homework changing?

Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?



By the end of 6th grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?
(Nagy & Herman, 1987)

Amount of homework will be assigned according to grade. Every grade level will have nightly reading homework. Homework for other subjects should be work that students have already done in the classroom, assignments that students can do on their own to practice. We recommend that the role of the parent should be to dedicate a consistent time to complete homework, encourage students, observe, and communicate with the teacher. We recommend limiting screen time (use of electronic devices) instead increase the amount of time students spend doing physical activities outside.

<http://www.edudemic.com/skipping-your-reading-homework/>

How is homework going to be graded?

"Feedback is not advice, praise, or evaluation. Feedback is information about how we are doing in our efforts to reach a goal."

- GRANT WIGGINS



"When we give a grade as part of our feedback, students routinely read only as far as the grade."

- PETER JOHNSTON

For elementary grades (K-5), homework on its own is not going to increase or decrease a student's grade. Feedback will be given under Lifelong Learning skills on the report card. In grades 6-8, please look at your child's syllabus or communication from their teachers.