

HOMework POLICY

At C.W. Perry School we believe that homework does have a place in a child's learning. Research tells us that homework helps students review concepts, deepen understanding and develop character skills such as organization, perseverance and responsibility. All grades at C.W. Perry receive homework to some degree depending on the grade level. Given the importance of students developing literacy skills, students should be reading at home each evening.

In addition to reading, homework can include things like assignments not completed during class time, review and practice activities (sentence structure, spelling, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division), larger projects to be completed over time or things such as notebook organization and test preparation

It is important that parents be as actively involved as possible in their child's learning. Parents are encouraged to check the quality of work their children produce before handing it in to the teacher and are welcome to edit and direct homework completion. In order to avoid the "my teacher wouldn't do it that way" hurdle, our students have been made aware that parents also have the right to provide advice and direction at home regarding homework. Parents can also request students complete their homework be done a certain way. As far as we at C.W. Perry are concerned, there are two sets of teachers in our students' lives: those at school and those at home. If homework does become an issue, parents should contact the teacher and work out a collaborative strategy and approach to the problem or concern.

As much as possible we would like our families to keep their weekends free of homework, but during the school week, Monday through Thursday, we ask that students spend some time on homework. The maximum amount of time spent is roughly dependent on the student's grade level. Students at a Grade 5 level should expect have between 15-30 minutes each evening on homework, including reading time. Students at a Grade 6 level should spend approximately 30-45 minutes each evening on homework, and students at Grade 7 & 8 levels should expect to have forty-five minutes to an hour each evening of homework. Students who do work well in class can expect to have less homework as focus, active participation and organization can positively affect a student's ability to manage assignments and projects.

Often students claim they cannot complete their homework because they do not have the information or handouts required. Main assignments and necessary handouts are posted or linked on C.W. Perry's plone site (cwperry.rockyview.ab.ca) for students to download if a child does not bring home the necessary information or supplies.

Students, with their parents, are also encouraged to check PowerSchool (<https://ps.rockyview.ab.ca/guardian/home.html>) on a regular basis to determine if there are any missing assignments that need to be completed. Our teachers work hard at updating assignments and marks approximately every two weeks.

Major/summative assignments not handed when due will be recorded as “missing” on PowerSchool prior to being marked so that parents can quickly see what assignments have been collected and those their child may not have handed in.

In the event of any extended absence other than for illness, parents must provide a note indicating the nature and duration of the absence. Ideally, this note should be addressed to the teacher and delivered one week prior to the start of the absence. Please consider extra holidays during the school year carefully as student achievement may be affected. Teachers are not required to provide homework for extended holiday absences. Beyond simple reading and writing activities, it is generally too difficult for students to navigate through assignments on their own without the guidance of the teacher. If you are planning on taking your child out of school for a vacation, the work your child misses while away will be discussed and reviewed upon your child’s return to school. If necessary, the assignment will be compacted/simplified to facilitate completion. Upon return to school, it is the student’s responsibility to catch up on any missed work within a reasonable time period.

In order to help students keep up on their assignments a Homework Club has been set up at lunch hours from Monday to Friday. In addition students at the Grade 7 & 8 level have access to the Homework Help Option.

As a final measure, students with two missing or incomplete summative assignments may be referred to the Office Support Program in order to complete their work in the office with a learning support assistant and administration. The purpose of the program is to “catch the student up” on missing assignments so that the student can again be successful and avoid one assignment after another piling up and becoming unmanageable. Upon return to class, any work the student may have missed will be compacted or will have been completed in the office in order to facilitate a successful re-entry into the class.