

# MARY S. SHOEMAKER SCHOOL

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Dear Parents:

In this letter you will find information that will guide you and your child this year with regard to homework practices. Please take a few minutes to review the homework research based guidelines, the parent/student expectations, and the homework procedures.

## Research-Based Homework Guidelines

The Woodstown-Piles Grove Regional School District continues to utilize the MCREL teacher evaluation system, as well as, *Classroom Instruction that Works*, by Cheri Dean, Elizabeth Ross Hubbell, Howard Pitler, and Bj Stone. Throughout our journey we continue to enhance these researched based strategies. Research provides evidence that, when used appropriately, homework benefits student achievement. To make sure homework is appropriate, teachers will follow these guidelines:

- **Assign purposeful homework.** Legitimate purposes for homework include introducing new content, practicing a skill or process that students can do independently but not fluently, elaborating on information that has been addressed in class to deepen students' knowledge, and providing opportunities for students to explore topics of their own interest.
- **Design homework to maximize the chances that students will complete it.** For example, ensure that homework is at the appropriate level of difficulty. Students should be able to complete homework assignments independently with relatively high success rates, but they should still find the assignments challenging enough to be interesting.
- **Involve parents in appropriate ways** (for example, as a sounding board to help students summarize what they learned from the homework) without requiring parents to act as teachers.
- **Carefully monitor the amount of homework assigned** so that it is appropriate to students' age levels and does not take too much time away from other home activities.
- **Provide timely feedback to students (verbally or written)** on assignments that are given and completed.

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### *Home of the Wolverines*

*The Woodstown-Piles Grove Regional School District, a collaborative partnership and educational leader, provides a secure, supportive environment with high quality resources to challenge and empower each individual to see and pursue his/her potential and to develop a passion for learning in a diverse and changing world.*

## Parent/Student Expectations

Please read and review the following guidelines with your child: We believe following these guidelines will help decrease tension associated with homework and increase your child's learning.

For your child to be successful with homework, she or he needs:

- **A place to do homework.** If possible, your child should do his/her homework in the same place—an uncluttered, quiet space to study.
- **A schedule for completing homework.** Set a homework schedule that fits in with each week's home activities.
- **Encouragement, motivation, and prompting.** We encourage parents to motivate your child(ren) to begin, but not sit and do the homework assigned. Your child(ren) needs to practice independently and to apply what he has learned in class. If your child consistently cannot complete homework assignments alone, please contact the teacher.
- **Understanding of the knowledge.** Be sure your child understands what is being asked of him/her.

## Homework Procedures

Our staff has worked collaboratively at each grade level to establish the procedures that you will see below. There were thoughtful and intentional discussions around this topic and these guidelines support what research suggests will increase student achievement. Please keep in mind that these guidelines are the "typical" type of homework assignments and there will be times homework looks different for students.

### **1st Grade**

The first grade team recommends between 10-15 minutes of daily homework practice. You can expect:

\*1-2 Minutes - Read sight words/word work

\*1-2 Minutes - Practicing mathematics facts

\*10 Minutes - Reading

### **2nd Grade**

Second grade team recommends approximately 20 minutes of daily homework practice. You can expect:

\*15 minutes – Reading

\*3 minutes- Word Work

\*2 minutes-Study monthly math facts

\*On occasion an additional homework page may go home and will be due the next day.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**

Third grade recommends approximately 30 minutes of homework practice each night. You can expect:

\*20 minutes – Reading

\*Mathematics: 1-3 problems to practice skills already taught that can be done independently

\*2-3 minutes Mathematics: studying facts each night

\*2-3 minutes Word Work

### **4<sup>th</sup> Grade**

The fourth grade team recommends 30-40 minutes of homework practice each night.

\*Reading - 25 min. per night

\*Language Conventions

\*Mathematics- skill or fact practice

### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

The fifth grade team recommends 50 minutes of homework practice each night.

\*Reading- 30 min. per night

\*10 minutes Language Conventions

\*10 minutes Mathematics- Skill or fact practice

Thank you for working together with us in the best interest of your child.

### **ACCESS to the PEARSON Portal:**

*Utilize this portal to receive extra information and resources for ReadyGen and enVision 2.0.*

<https://www.pearsonrealize.com/#/>

(Utilize your child's log in)

*Utilize this portal to receive access to additional ELA resources.*

<http://www.tumblebooklibrary.com/Default.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f>

(Username: msss and Password: books)

*Utilize this portal to receive access to additional Mathematics resources.*

<https://www.ixl.com/>

(Utilize your child's log in)