

JAMES BURD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HOMEWORK GUIDELINES

Purpose: James Burd is committed to the success of every child, every day. Our staff is devoted to meeting the academic, social, emotional, and behavioral needs of our students. As such, we value and support our students and their families both in and out of the classroom. Our students work hard in the classroom to achieve success and deserve ample time to participate in extra-curricular activities as well as spend time with their family when they return home. For this reason, we have developed a best practice framework to ensure a balanced homework approach that supports and promotes academic achievement and students' need for recreational and family activities.

Definition: Homework is defined as tasks assigned to students by teachers that are meant to be completed during non-school hours. Homework should provide meaningful experiences to students that reinforce skills already taught in class.

Time: Homework may increase gradually in amount, variety, and frequency as students' progress from grade to grade. The following time allotment is recommended as a guide for students to devote to homework each night. The suggested times below are daily maximums for each grade:

- Kindergarten – No homework
- First Grade – 10 minutes
- Second Grade – 20 minutes
- Third Grade – 30 minutes

If parents find that their children are consistently spending more time on homework than the recommended guidelines, they are strongly encouraged to contact their teacher to discuss the concern.

Type of Assignments: Homework assignments should be assigned at a student's instructional level to minimize the possibility of frustration. Such homework should be assigned so that students can complete it independently without any assistance. All assignments should be created with a clear purpose that supports a specific learning objective. All assignments should be posted clearly with the learning objective.

Homework generally serves four main purposes. They are:

1. **Practice** – math computation or facts, spelling words, vocabulary
2. **Preparation** – read a book, text or article prior to class discussion of a topic
3. **Extension** – application of learning to new situations
4. **Creation/Integration** – combination of many learned skills to construct a new product (project, report)

Homework assignments are created based upon the intended purpose of the teacher. Examples of elementary assignments include:

- unfinished class work
- drill and practice exercises (spelling and vocabulary words, math facts and computation)
- Reading independently or with a family member
- Writing assignments
- hands on projects – mobiles, models, STEAM activities (supplies to be provided by school)

Communication:

For students to be able to achieve the intended goals of homework assignments, communication between students, parents and teachers is essential. The following procedures are suggested:

- At the beginning of the school year, the James Burd Elementary Homework Guidelines will be distributed to all parents. Parents and teachers will be asked to review the guidelines and expectations with students. James Burd has an Open House in August that provides an additional opportunity for presentation, review and clarification of the Homework Guidelines between teachers and parents.
- At the beginning of the school year, individual teachers will inform parents of all homework expectations and procedures at the grade level and in their classrooms.
- Parents are urged to contact their child's teacher when there are concerns about homework.
- Teachers are encouraged to use the fall conferences to solicit input from parents/guardians of all students concerning the amount of time being spent on homework and any problems being encountered on a regular basis.

Consequences/Rewards:

Students will not incur any consequences for incomplete homework assignments; however, students are strongly encouraged to complete assignments for their own academic success. Students may be rewarded through positive reinforcement and/or the classroom behavior management system for completing their homework. We ask for parents' support in encouraging your child to complete their homework independently. If your child does ask for support on a question(s), please indicate this on the homework as we would like to know if your child is struggling or having difficulty.