



Lower Elementary Homework Philosophy

As guides to the development of our 6- to 9-year-old children, we, parents and teachers, constantly seek the fine balance of family time, extracurricular life, and free play with developing intellectual skills, responsibility, organization, and a strong work ethic. Extracurricular activities enrich the lives of our children as well as broaden their talents, contribute to the development of their identity, and provide them with joy. Free play builds their social skills, self reliance, creativity, and problem-solving abilities. These activities provide our children an opportunity to relax and release after an active day at school. A challenge of creating a routine for our children is not to over-schedule but yet to provide opportunity for growth, variety, and a change of pace.

As a school, we seriously consider the role of homework in the lives of our children. There is enough conflicting research available to support or refute almost any stance on homework. Here is a summary of the school's philosophy on the role of homework in the lives of children at the Lower Elementary level. We encourage you to ask questions as they arise.

Homework serves a variety of purposes. Our goals in assigning homework include:

Practical Life Skills

- To help students develop independence, responsibility, and accountability for their work
- To help students learn time management, study skills, and organizational skills

Intellectual Development

- To establish a nightly reading routine and to assist in the growth of a personal love of independent reading
- To provide the child with an opportunity to work with familiar concepts in different ways, thereby extending the practice they do in the classroom
- To offer opportunities for following directions and to build toward independence in creative problem solving and critical thinking
- To develop new interests or expand existing ones

Homework practices in the Lower Elementary:

- Homework will be gradually introduced in the first year and will be expanded upon during each year of Lower Elementary.
- Expectations for homework may be adjusted as needed to suit individual needs and abilities.
- Teachers will send home directions and materials for completing homework with children at the time the assignment is given. The child is encouraged to ask questions about any part of those instruction that she or he does not understand.
- If a child takes substantially more than the suggested time to complete a homework assignment, the child and his or her parents are encouraged to stop the work and let the teacher know that this was the case. If the child needs significantly less time to complete the work, the parent and child should share that information with the teacher as well.

By working together cooperatively, parents, students, and teachers can make homework a productive, practical part of the educational process in the Lower Elementary program.