

Vallecito Elementary School Homework Guidelines

Homework is defined as an assigned activity that is primarily accomplished outside of regular class time. Such work shall be appropriate to the grade level, subject matters, and instructional objective(s); in general, the amount of time spent on homework shall increase as the student progresses through the grades.

Purpose and benefits of homework can include:

1. Extend or make more meaningful concepts introduced at school.
2. Engage students in purposeful practice relevant to their learning.
3. Develop effective study habits.
4. Develop independent learning skills.

Responsibilities of Students:

- Listen carefully to all directions regarding homework; ask questions if the assignment is not clear.
- Fourth and fifth grade students will write down assignments in their daily planners.
- Set aside a regular time for studying.
- Work on homework independently, so that it demonstrates your best efforts. When necessary ask for appropriate homework help.
- Produce quality work.
- Make sure assignments are done according to the given instructions, and completed on time.
- Read 20 minutes per night, in addition to the assigned homework.
- Complete homework assigned during an illness or absence in a timely manner. Realize that regular study as well as written work, is an integral part of homework.

Responsibilities of Staff:

- Ensure homework is relevant and meaningful to reinforce classroom learning.
- Give clear instructions and ensure students understand the purpose and procedures.
- Check, review and provide timely feedback for homework.
- Prepare written guidelines of the homework requirements including the relationship these guidelines have to the student learner and reporting grades.
- Present guidelines at Back to School Night and throughout the year if needed.
- Encourage daily reading.
- Monitor long-term assignments in order to avoid last minute student efforts.
- Allow students to make up work if absent due to a religious observance.
- Assign no new homework over a weekend, official holiday or break. Assign no homework on Friday and expect it to be returned the following Monday. Note: projects or make-up/late work may span into or over multiple weekends or break.

- If a pattern of late or incomplete homework develops, involve parents and contact them in a timely manner.
- Monitor the effectiveness of homework as reflected in student performance.

Responsibilities of Parents:

- Contact the teacher to stay informed about the student’s learning.
- Monitor and/or check completed work.
- Set a regular, uninterrupted study time each day in a quiet, well-lit study area.
- Help the child establish school work as a high priority above social and recreational demands.
- Monitor student’s organization, daily list of assignments and sign documents as requested by teacher.
- Monitor daily reading.
- Help students to focus on learning, not to just get the work done. Encourage independent work unless the assignment requires group or parental involvement.
- Be supportive when the child gets frustrated with assignments.
- If your child regularly exceeds the expected time guidelines, communicate this to the teacher in a timely manner.

Responsibilities of Administration:

- Implement district policy.
- Support professional dialogue.
- Promote teacher collaboration.
- Monitor homework quality.
- Facilitate interventions and support programs.

Time:

It is understood that the expectations below are averages and that actual minutes will vary based on the content of the instructional program during a particular week and the length of time individual students need to complete particular assignments.

The expectation for the average student by grade level is as follows:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Time per Day</u>
K	10-15 minutes (+ 20 minutes reading)
1	15-20 minutes (+ 20 minutes reading)
2-3	30 minutes (+ 20 minutes reading)
4-5	30-50 minutes (+ 20 minutes reading)