



Nikiski North Star Elementary Homework Policy

Nikiski North Star Elementary teachers and staff view homework as an important part of our student's education. As a school, our homework policy is built upon the following beliefs:

- Homework encourages student responsibility.
- Homework helps students develop regular study routines and habits.
- Homework needs to be meaningful and relevant to the curriculum.
- Homework is an independent practice time that should reinforce what students have already learned.
- Homework is an opportunity for the parents and teachers to be partners in their student's education.

As a general guide, the duration of homework should increase 10 minutes for each grade level. We want to emphasize that homework cannot replace the regular instructional time of a student's day. A child's attendance and punctuality is very important.

The following times are typical for each grade level; however this does not necessarily mean that students will be given homework every day. Some projects or long term assignments may span weekends. Students are held accountable for completing assignments according to standards set and may be kept in at recess when needed. **If a student has remained on task and is unable to complete his/her assignment in the above amount of time, please attach a note to the homework indicating this.**

Grade	Daily Homework
K	10 minutes
1	10 minutes
2	20 minutes
3	30 minutes
4	40 minutes
5	50 minutes

In addition to these times, it is recommended that students do the following:

- read every night by themselves or with an adult and
- practice math skills daily.

Reading for the emerging reader may include time that parents/older siblings read to them during the week. Older students should set 100 minutes as a minimum goal to read independently each week.

Mathematical computation (knowing addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts) continues to be a goal for all of our students. It is recommended that students spend time each week practicing their computational facts. This can be done with number games, critical thinking skills, flashcards, math games, estimating at the grocery store, etc.

Homework Tips for Parents:

Parents can support a child's interest in lifelong learning by encouraging good study habits and providing a learning environment in the home.

- Check for homework assignment (students in 5th grade have a NNS Assignment Planner that is filled out with homework).
- Choose a quiet place and time to complete homework.
- Help your child budget time so that a regular schedule for study is set.
- Support, clarify, and motivate, BUT DO NOT DO THE HOMEWORK FOR YOUR CHILD.
- Be wary and contact your child's teacher if your child never has homework.
- We work as a team with you! Contact teacher(s) if a large number of assignments are too difficult or time consuming for your child. Learning rates vary so it is difficult to articulate an exact amount of time that should be spent on homework each evening.

Suggestions for Students:

- Use your NNS Assignment Planner wisely.
- Be sure you understand the assignments or ask your teacher if you need help.
- Set aside a regular time for homework.
- Study in a quiet place.
- Complete your work and hand it in when it is due.
- Do your best on each homework assignment.

Absentee Policy

Two days are allotted for each day the student is absent. For example, if a student is absent two days (Monday/Tuesday) the work is due the following Monday. We encourage parents to pick up assignments, or make arrangements to have work sent home with a sibling or student who lives close by.