



What's for Homework?

Students in Grade 6 should expect to have about **60 minutes** of homework each night (the general rule is 10 minutes per grade). They should also have a clean, quiet area to work free from distractions.

But what constitutes homework? How many times has your child told you **"I don't have any homework?"** Well, that's only partially true. Your son or daughter may not have any assignments due the next day, but there is a lot more to homework than finishing work to hand in the next day.

In fact, most assignments and seat work are done **IN CLASS**. **Very little should be done at home**. This ensures that all students are given a fair chance to ask questions, work in groups, get extra support, and do their very best.

So where does that 60 minutes come from????

Homework should be divided into 2 equal blocks: **Completing Work / Review and Reading / Basic Math Facts / Organization**.

Block 1: Completing Unfinished Work / Review of New Concepts

Examples include:

- Assigned Mathletics activities or math practice.
- Reviewing the new words learned in Science class
- Re-reading a passage from Social Studies
- Reviewing the characteristics of a particular genre
- Going over a math problem that was solved in class to ensure understanding
- Etc.

Block 2: Reading / Practice of Basic Math Facts / Organization

- Students should spend at least 20 minutes each night reading fiction or non-fiction. (These minutes should be logged in their reading logs)
- Students should also spend about 10 minutes each night practicing multiplication/division/addition/subtraction facts. (Please note: multiplication tables 1-12 should be memorized before entering Grade 6)
- Students should spend a few minutes each night making sure their agenda is signed, all notes/forms have been read and signed, and their backpack is packed for the next day.

Please note: If students are spending more than 30-40 minutes on "block 1" type activities, then it is probably because:

- a) *They did not use their class time effectively to complete work.*
- b) *They do not understand the work (therefore a note should be written to the teacher so that we can spend a recess reviewing together).*
- c) *They are behind due to illness/absence (in which case I always give an extra day for each day of absence to catch up).*

Homework is designed to do the following:

- Help students keep up-to-date with their assignments and keep new concepts fresh in their minds.
- Teach students how to effectively manage their time.
- Help parents stay current with what's happening in the classroom.

Homework is **NOT**:

- A chance to learn new concepts (this should be done in class).
- To complete work that will be assessed – all work that a teacher assesses must be done in class. Again, this is to ensure that all students are given a fair chance to ask questions if needed, work in groups and do their best work.

Don't Fall Behind!

If your child cannot complete his/her homework for reasons such as busy family commitments, illness, after-school activities, etc, then please write a note to me in the agenda. If it is a persistent problem, we can try to come up with alternative arrangements.

Sample Homework Schedule for a Grade 6 Student

10 minutes	Practicing times tables or finishing the last question from the day's math class.
10 minutes	Reviewing the new Science words learned or re-reading the article/notes from Social Studies class.
10 minutes	Working on the art assignment due at the end of the week, or researching for the project due in a couple of weeks.
5-10 minutes	Get agenda signed / organize notes / get permission forms signed / pack bag for tomorrow.
15-20 minutes	Reading

Students who have 3 or more missed/incomplete homework assignments (without acceptable explanations) will have a letter sent home to parents. This letter will detail the assignments that are missed and must be signed/returned. Students will then need to spend time (usually recess) catching up on incomplete work. This will also affect the student's report card mark for learning skills: responsibility.