



December 11, 2017

Dear Parents:

After a thorough review of Suffolk Public School’s homework policy and regulations, the school division has determined that it is necessary to modify the homework regulations at the elementary level beginning January 2, 2018. Our former regulation permitted teachers to assign up to 30 minutes of homework for kindergarten students, up to 45 minutes for first graders, up to 60 minutes for second graders and up to 90 minutes for third – fifth graders.

According to research, short, frequent homework closely monitored by the teacher is most effective (Hattie 2010). Also, according to Duke University researcher Harris Cooper, about 10 minutes per grade level is the optimum amount of homework for students. For example about 20 minutes for a second grader and up to about 50 minutes for a 5th grader. Thus, after a thorough review of homework research, policies in other local divisions, and a survey, of elementary teachers, we have adopted this 10-minute rule as our approach for assigning homework in the elementary grades.

Grade	Current	New (Effective 1-2-18)
Grade K	Up to 30 Min (optional)	Up to 10 Min (optional)
1 st Grade	Up to 45 Min	10-20 minutes
2 nd Grade	Up to 60 Min	Up to 20 Min
3 rd Grade	Up to 90 Min	Up to 30 Min
4 th Grade	Up to 90 Min	Up to 40 Min
5 th Grade	Up to 90 Min	Up to 50 Min

In addition, students are encouraged to read every night. For additional questions, please feel free to contact your child’s principal.

Sincerely,

LaToya W. Harrison, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum and Instruction