

Homework Policy

The Epstein School

Last update: June 13, 2008

Homework is defined as any work or task planned by the teacher to be completed by the student outside of the regular classroom without immediate and direct teacher or parent interaction (unless specified). Homework allows students to integrate the academic learning process into their daily lives. At The Epstein School, homework is also viewed as an opportunity to have students develop ownership for their own learning.

The purpose of homework at The Epstein School:

- *Reinforcement of skills learned in class*
- *Revisiting and reviewing of material previously taught for consolidation and connection*
- *Linking skills together through integrated assignments*
- *Mastery of basic skills*
- *Ongoing development of organizational and long-term planning skills*

Homework will not be assigned on Jewish Holidays or on Shabbat.

In order to preserve weekends and Shabbat for family and personal recreation, homework assigned on Friday cannot be due on Monday.

Homework Procedures and Guidelines

- Daily assignments will be written in plan books for ALL grades – in addition to the fact that Middle School and 5th grade homework will also be posted on The Epstein School website.
- Parents of students in grades 1 to 3 must initial the student planner daily.
- Students will correct homework errors and follow-up to insure understanding in a timely fashion. Teachers will take a more proactive role in this area in the elementary school.
- Daily homework is given in math and reading where mastery of ongoing skills is necessary.
- For most other subjects, assignments are not due the next day; thus, dividing the assignment into manageable parts is highly suggested.
- Emails to parents will be sent home when assignments are not completed or turned in on time. No response from the parents/guardians is needed. Students are still required to finish incomplete assignments.
- Time Guidelines- These are the general times expected; they are not necessarily a nightly average.
1st to 2nd grade: 10 to 30 minutes nightly

3 rd grade:	15 to 30 minutes nightly
4 th grade:	30 to 45 minutes nightly
5 th grade:	30 to 45 minutes nightly
6 th grade:	30 to 60 minutes nightly
7 th grade:	45 to 90 minutes nightly
8 th grade:	1 to 2 hours nightly

Homework Roles and Responsibilities

Teachers

Teachers can help students establish a routine of regular, independent study by:

- Ensuring their school's homework policy is implemented
- Assigning homework on a regular basis
- Coordinating homework with other team members to avoid overloading children with work
- Clearly communicating the purpose, benefits, and expectation of all homework
- Checking homework regularly and providing timely and useful feedback
- Using homework that is varied, challenging, and directly related to class work and appropriate to students' learning needs.
- Explicitly teaching strategies to develop organizational and time-management skills and providing opportunities to practice these strategies through homework.
- Discussing with parents and caregivers and developing problems concerning their child's homework and suggesting strategies to assist with their homework.

Students

Students can take ownership of their own learning by:

- Discussing with their parents or caregivers homework expectations
- Accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames
- Seeking assistance when difficulties arise
- Organizing their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports and recreational and cultural activities.

Parents/Guardians

Parents/Guardians can partner with their child by:

- Providing a homework area that is close to the family, yet, free enough from distractions. Students studying in their rooms may not be able to stay on task or may feel that they are in some way being isolated in a negative way.
- Taking possession of cell phones/iPods/email until homework assignments are completed.

- Dividing homework into shorter time periods with frequent breaks may work well for some students.
- Assisting the child with portioning long-term assignments into manageable chunks and making a daily schedule that includes the necessary homework and outside activities.
- Allowing students to work independently, but being available to answer questions or assist with directions.
- Demonstrating that school work and learning are considered priorities in the household; students will respond as such.