



Spearfish Middle School

The Role of Homework in Learning

How much is too much?

It's simplistic, but reasonable: Add a zero to the grade level for the number of minutes of homework assigned per night:

- ◆ 6th grade = 60 minutes,
- ◆ 7th grade = 70 minutes,
- ◆ 8th grade = 80.

Be clear, though, that this is all subjects combined. The times above should serve as a guide.

-Providing Effective Learning Experiences,
Rick Wormlie



Research-Based Homework Guidelines

Research provides strong evidence that, when used appropriately, homework benefits student achievement. To make sure that homework is appropriate, teachers should follow these guidelines:

- ⇒ **Assign purposeful homework.** Legitimate purposes for homework include introducing new content, practicing a skill or process that students can do independently but not fluently, elaborating on information that has been addressed in class to deepen students' knowledge, and providing opportunities for students to explore topics of their own interest.
- ⇒ **Design homework to maximize the chances that students will complete it.** For example, ensure that homework is at the appropriate level of difficulty. Students should be able to complete homework assignments independently with relatively high success rates, but they should still find the assignments challenging enough to be interesting.
- ⇒ **Involve parents in appropriate ways** (for example, as a sounding board to help students summarize what they learned from the homework) without requiring parents to act as teachers.
- ⇒ **Carefully monitor the amount of homework assigned** so that it is appropriate to students' age levels and does not take too much time away from other home activities.

Special Topic / The Case For and Against Homework. Robert J. Marzano and Debra J. Pickering



Homework Website

English:

- * <http://school.discoveryeducation.com/homeworkhelp/>

Math:

- * <http://www.math.com/>
- * <http://everydaymath.uchicago.edu/parents/parent-links/>

Social Studies:

- * <http://www.history.com/>

Science:

- * <http://www.howstuffworks.com/>
- * <http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/#.UnEFaFOyPq4>

All subjects:

- * <http://www.refdesk.com/homework.html>
- * <http://www.factmonster.com/homework/>
- * [http://www.jiskha.com/ \(online tutors\)](http://www.jiskha.com/(online+tutors))

Parent Resource:

- * <http://www.scholastic.com/parents/school-success/school-help/>