



BMP Ridge Street School Homework Guidelines

Purpose of Homework

The purpose for assigning homework is to give students the opportunity to extend lessons, practice/reinforce skills, and develop good work habits. Further, homework provides an opportunity for students to develop personal responsibility and study skills, including good organization, self-reliance, and time management. Homework can also serve as one form of communication between the teacher and the family. At the Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street School, we feel that it is important that our students, families, and teachers share the responsibility for homework.

Student's Responsibilities:

- To understand all homework assignments by listening to directions, asking questions when something is unclear, and reading directions
- To gather all materials necessary to complete assignments before leaving the classroom. Students in grades 3-5 are expected to copy homework assignments.
- To complete all assignments to the best of his/her ability
- To return materials and assignments on time
- To make up any missed homework that the teacher requires

Family's Responsibilities:

- To provide a routine and environment that is conducive to doing homework (i.e. a quiet and consistent place and time, necessary materials, etc.)
- To offer assistance to the student, but not do the actual homework
- To check that your child has edited his/her homework for spelling (Kindergarten and First Graders may use invented spelling as appropriate), punctuation, neatness, etc.
- To notify the teacher when homework presents a problem
- To read school notices and respond in a timely manner. Homework and school notices will travel home in the student's take home/homework folder. Regular backpack clean-ups can be useful in helping students to organize their materials.

Teacher's Responsibilities:

- To provide purposeful homework
- To provide clear directions and instructions
- To implement a system for routinely checking homework
- To communicate to the student and family what is expected for completing homework successfully
- To communicate with families when students are not consistently completing assignments or handing them in on time



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Time Frame of Homework Assignments

With good time management, students know how much time they have, how long it will take to get assignments done, and what they can accomplish in the time they have. This gives them more breathing room, which reduces the feeling of being rushed, which in turn leads to less frustration and stress.

Actual time required to complete assignments will vary with each student's study habits, academic skills, and subject matter. If your child is spending an inordinate amount of time on homework, you should contact your child's teacher(s).

Below is a table of homework time frames which gives students and parents an idea of the length of time homework is suggested to take in each grade:

Grade	Homework Time Frame	At Home Reading **
Kindergarten*	Up to 10 minutes (Monday-Thursday)	A minimum of 15 minutes
Grade 1	Up to 10 minutes (Monday-Thursday)	A minimum of 20 minutes
Grade 2	Up to 20 minutes (Monday-Thursday)	A minimum of 20 minutes
Grade 3	Up to 20 minutes (Monday-Thursday)	A minimum of 20 minutes
Grade 4	Up to 40 minutes (Monday-Thursday)	A minimum of 20 minutes
Grade 5	Up to 50 minutes (Monday-Friday)	A minimum of 30 minutes
Special Areas	Occasionally an assignment may be given that reinforces what is taught in class.	

* Homework in Kindergarten begins in late fall.

** "At Home Reading" promotes the development of our children becoming lifelong readers. Parents are welcome to read to/with their children. As children's reading abilities strengthen, they will transition to reading more independently.



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Religious Observance, Extended Absences and Vacation

The Blind Brook School District recognizes the diversity of families in the community and honors family experiences outside school. In addition, considerations shall be given to homework assignments with respect to the occurrence of religious holidays, extended absences and school vacation as noted in the school calendar.

Students with long-term or extended excused absences shall be given the same number of days to make up the work. In extenuating circumstances, additional time may be granted. Parents who anticipate an extended excused absence are expected to communicate with their child's teacher about the assignments that may be required during the absence. Excused absences are those absences attributable to:

- sickness
- sickness or death in family
- religious holidays
- dental and medical appointments
- required attendance in court
- school-related activities.

All other absences are unexcused. Teachers are not obligated to provide make-up tests or accept homework or other assignments from students who have missed class due to an unexcused absence.

(This is in accordance with Blind Brook School District Comprehensive Attendance Policy 7110.)