



Distance Learning Homework and Grading

2020 - 2021

Homework

Amador Elementary is committed to supporting children to realize their full academic, social, and emotional potential. An essential component to meet this goal is to establish strong partnerships between staff, students, and parents. We believe homework should be purposeful, challenging and relevant, and extend student learning to directly influence students' ability to meet our district's high academic standards.

Homework is defined as any task assigned to students by school teachers that are meant to be carried out during non-school hours. This includes independent preview, practice or completion of skills and concepts taught during class, projects, test and performance preparation, and daily independent reading.

Purpose of Homework

- Serves as an extension to classroom learning.
- Provides students with relevant, challenging, and meaningful practice of academic standards.

Appropriate Parent/Guardian Involvement

- To obtain information about their child's progress, parents/guardians are encouraged to email the teacher or schedule a conference.
- Parents/Guardians may support their children by helping them:
 - o Allocate their time wisely
 - o Establishing routines around school work and recreational activities
 - o Develop effective study and organizational habits.
 - o Designate a study space.
 - o Review math facts weekly.
 - o Discuss what they are reading and learning
 - o Monitor online gaming and social media
 - o Review students' work completion on Canvas

Homework Policies

- As defined in the Parent Handbook, homework shall not exceed 10-15 minutes multiplied by the grade level range.
- Assigned independent reading shall not exceed an additional 20 to 30 minutes per night.
- Tests shall not fall on the first school day immediately after a holiday.
- Due dates for projects shall not fall on the first school day immediately after a holiday.
- There should be no homework over winter break.

Additional Support

The amount of time a student spends on assigned homework depends on many factors such as the student's needs, learning ability, achievement levels, subject, testing schedule, and assigned homework due dates. Time spent on homework should be balanced with the importance of personal and family well-being and the wide array of family obligation. In the event that homework is consistently exceeding the guidelines for your child, please contact your child's teacher to arrange a conference. We have a Student Success Team process for students struggling academically and socially emotionally at school. Parents can call a meeting at any time in support of their child.



AMADOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Communication

- Parents can communicate through email or leave a voice message for staff when needed. Teachers will respond within 48 hours on a school day.

Make-Up Work

- Students who miss school, for excused or unexcused absence (including band) are expected to complete assignments, quizzes, and tests given during their absence. They have the amount of absent days to complete their missing work (i.e. if they are absent for two days, they have two days to complete). Independent Studies are excluded from absence policy.
- If a student is suspended, they will have the number of days that they were suspended to complete the work missed. They will not be graded differently.
- Students are *equal* partners in learning with their teachers.

Independent Study

- Please contact your teacher and our Attendance Clerk to pick up and fill out an Independent Study Contract. You must fill out 10 days before you need one so that the classroom teacher and office have time to review your request. Independent Studies are available for students who will be gone 5 consecutive school days or more. They are approved on a case by case basis.

Grading

Grading is an important means of communicating student performance and progress. Grades are an impartial, consistent reflection of the quality of the student's work and his/her mastery of course standards. Student learning is supported by daily attendance and homework completion, class participation, and academic honesty.

Grade Scale and Assignments

- **Grades K-3:** Students will receive number grades (1 = Area of Concern, 2 = Approaching Standard, 3 = Meeting Standard, or 4 = Extending/ Exceeding Standard) in content areas. Standards Based Grading is a system of grading students based on their demonstrated level of mastery of concepts ("Essential Skills"), rather than just calculating an average based on the total number of "points" they earn in a semester. It measures demonstrated student learning, not speed of learning. It emphasizes the most recent evidence of learning when. Selected assessments (tests, quizzes, projects, etc.) are used for grading purposes. Anecdotal evidence can be a factor in standards based grading as needed.
- **Grades 4-5:** Students will receive letter grades (A, B, C, D, or F) in content areas. Projects and assessments are used to calculate grades. A: 100-90%, B: 89-80%, C: 79-70%, D: 69-60%, F: 59% or lower .
- Students will receive "+" Outstanding, "√" Satisfactory, or "-" Needs Improvement in Community, College, and Career Readiness.

Grading Policies and Procedures

- Students in the 4th and 5th grades who receive a D or F may request, within five days of receiving said grade, the opportunity to complete a retest of an alternative assessment, through corrections and evidence of new learning. After this retake, a student may improve their grade to no higher than a C, for that test.
- Parents may view a child's test results after the test is graded and returned, on Canvas..
- Academic honesty is expected. Cheating, plagiarizing, or dishonoring the intellectual integrity of peers will be addressed through progressive discipline which may result in suspension. Students will not receive credit for that assignment/ test.