

Information for Teachers and Principals...

In Randolph County Schools, we believe that effective homework can create a greater understanding of the student's academic success. As a part of our commitment to parents, the following are expectations for administrators and teachers:

- The homework policy will be included in the student handbook.
- Homework will not be used as punishment.
- Limited resources available to students at home will be considered when making homework assignments.
- Students' academic needs will be considered when assigning homework.
- Homework should be given as a reinforcement activity for a skill taught in the classroom.
- Teachers in grades K-12 should communicate timelines and general plans for assignments and projects at the beginning of the grading period. This should prove particularly helpful in planning for special projects and research work.
- A variety of homework assignments will be provided.
- Time at school should be provided for students to use reference materials and technology for lengthy research projects.



Homework Websites...

Fact Monster:

www.factmonster.com

Divided up into subjects, skills, and reference sources.

Time for Kids:

www.timeforkids.com

Organized into Grades K-1, 2-3, 4-6.

Ask Jeeves for Kids:

www.ajkids.com

Large search engine. You can click on subject books for help in certain areas.

Learn NC:

www.learnnc.org

From the UNC School of Education, includes lessons and reference resources.

NC Wise Owl:

www.ncwiseowl.org

A wonderful resource for NC and county by county research. Has links to encyclopedias, periodicals, etc.

Smithsonian Education:

www.smithsonianeducation.org

Divided into three sections: educators, families, and students. For families there are suggested readings and ways for parents to encourage learning; for students there are detailed topics to explore.



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**Information for
students, parents,
community, and
educators**



**Randolph County
Schools**

Background information on the policy...

The Randolph County Schools Board of Education and the Task Force on Education recognize the importance of homework in supplementing classroom instruction and furthering the goals of the educational program. Homework reinforces learning and stimulates independence, responsibility, and self direction to prepare students to be lifelong learners. Teachers may assign homework for many reasons. These include:

- Extension of classroom instruction for review and practice in skills which have already been taught in class.
- Preparation for instruction and application of knowledge based on the goals and objectives of the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for current and future educational opportunities, and
- Provide enrichment activities as an extension to the curriculum.
- Homework includes all forms of school work which is assigned to be completed at home.

In order to make certain that communication regarding homework is clear:

- a. Homework guidelines will be communicated to parents/guardians in the student/parent handbook or other appropriate forms of communication. It is important for teachers to be mindful that other teachers are assigning homework to the individual student as well.
- b. Expectations will be communicated regarding homework assignments and how homework affects the student's grade.

- c. Follow-up on homework assignments by teachers will be completed in a timely manner with appropriate activities such as grading and reviewing the assignments with students.
- d. Teachers will take into consideration the differences in financial, educational, and technological resources of students and their parent/guardian when making assignments.

10-Minute Rule...

The grade level of a student will be used as a general guide to the amount of homework assigned each night. While realizing that time may vary for an individual student who works at a slower or faster pace than his/her classmates, research and best practices suggest that the total amount of homework assigned to an individual student each night will generally follow the 10-Minute Rule.

This rule conveys to students, parents, and teachers the expectation that homework assignments combined last about as long as ten minutes multiplied by the student's grade level.

Examples of how much homework to expect each night:

- Kindergarten/First Grade—10 minutes
- Second Grade—20 minutes
- Eighth Grade—80 minutes

In addition, students may be expected to read nightly.

In general, high school students will expect 30 minutes of homework per high school block. With students taking a number of Honors, Community College, North Carolina Virtual Public School, and/or Advanced Placement courses at the high school level, the total amount of homework may need to increase beyond the 120 minutes expected of most high school students.

Information for Parents...

Listed below are suggestions for parents as they participate with homework:

- At the beginning of the school year, ask your child's teacher about homework rules or guidelines, including the types of work assigned and the purpose for the assignments.
- Homework is most beneficial when a regular time and place is established. Finding a quiet, comfortable study area with good lighting and having the necessary school supplies available are important. Set a specific time for your child to complete homework assignments daily.
- Parents with specific questions or concerns about homework assignments should contact the child's teachers.
- We invite you to be involved and to communicate with your child's teacher regularly.
- If your child does his/her homework independently, you should ask to see your child's homework and discuss it with him/her by asking questions and providing support.
- Parents should provide encouragement and assistance to their child on homework assignments. However, parents should never complete assignments for their child.
- For long-term projects, students should plan and budget time accordingly.

