

Comprehensive School Homework Plan: El Dorado Middle School

The faculty at El Dorado designs homework that reinforces and strengthens standards-based skills and content taught in class, extends learning experiences, and/or previews new material. Homework is included in the calculation of grades; the percent varies by grade level and subject area but does not exceed twenty percent of any single grade.

Completion of homework helps students develop and maintain academic progress and growth as they transition from elementary school through middle school and on to high school; as curriculum and course work become more rigorous, independent skills practice outside of school provides opportunities for students to develop positive personal study habits, increasing self-reliance while developing initiative, personal responsibility and time-management skills.

In a typical week, an El Dorado middle school student can expect an average of 60-105 focused and productive minutes per school night completing homework in his/her core academic classes including math, science, history and English. Additionally, students may be asked to read appropriate literature for 20-30 minutes every school night beyond other assignments. Our policy assumes that the time guidelines of 60 – 105 minutes, plus 30 minutes of silent reading time, should be sufficient to satisfy curriculum subject requirements. Teachers may exercise some latitude of discretion to accommodate individual student circumstances and needs.

Some elective courses, such as band or Foreign Language, have additional requirements which may increase the average number of minutes. Occasionally, there may be long-term projects which extend the typical experience. The faculty works closely together to ensure that such projects are calendared to avoid overlap whenever possible.

If your student is consistently spending more time on homework than outlined above, please communicate your concerns to your child's teachers as soon as possible. The faculty is available to work with you and your child to ensure a positive academic experience for your student.

El Dorado Middle School Homework Policy

Teachers will:

- A. Ensure that assignments are relevant to grade level standards and / or course of study.
- B. Ensure their objectives, expectations and materials to be covered have been fully explained.
- C. Take into consideration the ability range and special needs of students when making assignments.
- D. Provide students with assistance in time management techniques to complete multiple assignments.
- E. Attempt to minimize overlapping deadlines of major assignments.
- F. Communicate clearly to students key dates for long term assignments using age / grade appropriate methods.
- G. Communicate to students the impact of homework as a life skill at the elementary level and on grades at the secondary level.
- H. Provide students with timely feedback or grades as appropriate.
- I. Ensure that homework practice will be consistent with established homework plan for grade level and / or content area.

Homework should:

- A. Provide opportunities to develop positive personal study habits.
- B. Reinforce the standards-based skills and content taught in class and may also include preview of new material.
- C. Stimulate intellectual development.
- D. Provide opportunities for participation on special projects.
- E. Be assigned during the school week on a regular basis. Total homework assignments should have an estimated completion of 60 – 105 minutes per night. Advanced courses may require additional time (Math Homework is an extension of the class work. Math teachers assign between 10 and 25 problems for homework).
- F. Additionally include reading appropriate literature every school night for 20 – 30 minutes beyond other assignments.
- G. Be a component of the grade (not more than 20%).

Grading Scale:

El Dorado has adopted and implemented the following grading scale school wide:

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| A | 90 – 100% |
| B | 80 – 89% |
| C | 70 – 79% |
| D | 60 – 69% |
| F | 59% and below |

* Teacher discretion is allowed.