

## What can I do as a Parent?

Homework is meant to support learning and is not intended to create tensions in the home.

If homework leads to bad feelings between parents and children, it can have negative effects at school and create stress in the home. Here are some tips that can help:

- Show interest in what your child is learning. Be positive and encouraging without doing the homework.
- Provide the right environment to get homework done. Try setting a regular time and place and remove distractions.
- Make sure your child has the supplies and resources needed before they start to work.
- Help with time management to ensure that homework is not put off until the last minute.

## What can I do as a Student?

- Make sure you understand the teachers' instructions and ask for help if you need clarification.
- Take responsibility for your homework. (Don't wait for your parents to remind you.)
- Take a moment each evening to review your assignments and upcoming deadlines, tests and exams. You'll reduce stress if you know what's ahead at school.
- Make sure you have the materials you need to complete your assignments. (Remember to take your books home from school.)
- Use assigned class time to complete assignments.



## Need help?

- ✓ *Talk to your child's teachers early in the school year. Let teachers know that you want to be an active partner in your child's success.*
- ✓ *Parents are urged to communicate with the teacher if homework is incomplete.*
- ✓ *Let your child's teacher know about special events or family activities that may conflict with homework assignments.*
- ✓ *Together, we can solve a problem in its early stages.*
- ✓ *For Thames Valley's Homework Procedure, visit: [www.tvdsb.ca/homework](http://www.tvdsb.ca/homework)*

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



# A Guide to Homework

## K-12







## What is homework?

Homework is a learning experience that takes place outside of the classroom and is assigned and monitored by the teacher.

It often includes:

- *Preparing for upcoming classroom learning*
- *Reviewing class work*
- *Reading*
- *Practicing tasks and activities*
- *Completing tasks that were not finished in class*
- *Revising and correcting class work*



*A Caring, Learning Community*

## How much time is enough?

The amount of time a child spends on homework varies with age and grade level. Generally, students are expected to spend more time on homework as they progress into their senior years.

Of course there's no way to determine the exact number of minutes a child will take to complete homework assignments. The amount of homework may also vary from day to day.

To help parents understand how much time should be spent on homework, the Thames Valley District School Board has developed the following guideline:

### Grades 1 - 3

Not more than 20 minutes per evening

### Grades 4 - 6

Not more than 40 minutes per evening

### Grades 7 - 8

Not more than 60 minutes per evening

### Grades 9 - 12

Not more than 120 minutes per day

**These times are presented as a guide and are not intended to reflect the amount of homework which may be assigned each night**

*Parents are encouraged to end homework after the times listed above and contact the teacher if they are concerned their child is regularly spending too much time on homework.*

## The evidence is clear

One study indicated that most Canadian parents feel homework can be a source of household stress. But most parents also believe homework is a valuable learning tool.

Family involvement helps children get ready to enter school, promotes their success in school, and prepares youth for future success.

Perhaps the most important advantage of homework is that it can enhance achievement in all aspects of life.

### In ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- ✓ *Children become familiar with the idea that learning takes place at home as well as at school.*
- ✓ *Developing good reading habits improves achievement.*
- ✓ *Homework helps develop good study habits and fosters positive attitudes toward school.*
- ✓ *Children learn important lessons about the completion of tasks and responsibility.*

### In SECONDARY SCHOOL:

- ✓ *Research shows a direct connection between homework and academic achievement.*
- ✓ *Adolescents whose parents monitor their school and social activities have higher rates of success.*
- ✓ *Homework helps develop time-management and problem-solving skills that will last a lifetime.*