

Homework policy: Woods Middle School expects all students to do at least 30 minutes of homework each night. It is important for students to get into the habit of daily work at home. If there are not specific assignments, students are expected to read, write, research, practice math facts and math computation, work logic, visualization, or word puzzles, etc. I generally do not assign a lot of homework, but I do assign it fairly regularly. All assignments are due the following day unless a specific due date is given. I review all assignments at the end of the day. At that time students record the assignments in their planners and get clarification on anything they don't understand. I try to limit daily assignments to somewhere between twenty and forty minutes. I am very aware of my students' busy lives outside of school and feel strongly that they have the time and opportunities to pursue their own outside interests and responsibilities. The only time your child should have more than an hour of homework from me is when he or she has put off long term assignments, such as a writing assignment or an independent project, until the last minute. Some students complete most their assignments in the time allotted at school. It is not a good idea for students to figure on finishing homework in the morning before school. They sometimes rush to get it finished and turn in assignments which lack the quality of which the student is capable, run into snags, or find that they underestimated the time it would take to finish. I have told the students that, if they do not understand a part of their homework, they should try the following options in this order: 1. Ask a parent or sibling for help, 2. Call a classmate, 3. Call me at home (234-2566) before 9:00, 4. Come in early the next day for help. Other possible options include the online homework help available through the Natrona County Public Library Homework Hotline at www.natronacountylibrary.org (need library card) and Connected Mathematics Project site, <http://connectedmath.msu.edu/parents>.

I do not want students stressing when they don't understand. I do want them to be responsible with assignments.

Parents: Insist on 30 min.; help with X facts; encourage writing and reading; be an audience; provide trips to the library; spot check planners and work quality; help with organization; post long term assignments; ensure attendance; provide materials (paper, pencil, pen, calculator, scissors, tape, stapler, etc.) Help your student without doing it for him/her - ask leading or probing questions so the student can do as much of the thinking as possible.

If your child is having difficulty getting assignments completed, consider putting him/her on a planner check.

"Homework is not finished until it's in your backpack."