**Homework FAQs for Room 26**

Maintaining a healthy balance between family life and school is important. There has been much discussion about the benefits and drawbacks of assigning homework recently. My belief is that homework does play an important role in a student’s academic progress. However, as is the case for most things, it must be meaningful and given in moderation.

**How do you decide what to assign for homework?**

These are the two questions I ask myself before I assign homework:

1. Is this a valuable use of a student’s time?
2. Is this something that can be completed independently, therefore freeing up valuable class time for discussions and group work? (Examples include but are not limited to independent reading, watching a short video, writing a response, practicing a math skill or problem solving,)

**How much time will my child be expected to spend on homework?**

In general, a student shouldn’t have to spend more than an hour a night working on homework. Many times it will be much less and sometimes there may even be no homework. In many cases, assignments will be given for the course of a week, so students can plan ahead or do a small part each night. Unfinished class work may also be assigned.

**Why is my child spending much longer than an hour on homework?**

Sometimes, especially in the beginning of the year, students need to develop routines that will help them finish work. Also, at the start of the year, I am still getting to know your child. I will modify work as needed, so if your child is struggling with homework, please encourage him/her to have a conversation with me. Afterward, follow up with an email or phone call if you haven’t heard from me. Homework should not be something that takes forever (more than an hour) or causes a lot of stress. Please communicate with me if that is happening.

**Why doesn’t my child have any homework?**

 Occasionally, there will be days when there is no homework assigned. (However, there will be reading almost every day.) Additionally, some students are fast workers or feel driven to use all available class time to finish work. Also, some homework will be given at the start of the week and many students like to get it done right away. In that case, they may not have much the rest of the week.

**How will I know if my child is finishing homework on time?**

You will receive a weekly report every Friday, which will indicate missing homework if there is any.