

Jasper Middle School Parent Academy

January 23rd 2023 6pm

Does Homework Help Children Learn?

From third through sixth grades, small amounts of homework, gradually increased each year, may support improved school achievement.

What's the Right Amount of Homework?

In third through sixth grades, children can benefit from 30 to 60 minutes a school day.

How to Help: Monitor Assignments

- Ask about the School's Homework Policy
 - At the start of the school year, ask your child's teacher about any rules or guidelines that children are expected to follow as they complete homework.
- Be Available
 - If your child is cared for by someone else, talk to that caregiver about how to deal with homework. For an older child, if no one will be around, let him know when you want him to begin work and call to remind him if necessary.
- Look over Completed Assignments
 - It's usually a good idea to check to see that your elementary school child has finished her assignments. If your middle-school student is having trouble finishing assignments, check his work, too.

How to Help: Provide Guidance

- **Help Your Child Get Organized**
 - Help your child to make a schedule and put it in a place where you'll see it often.
- **Encourage Good Study Habits**
 - Teachers generally give students tips on how to study. But it takes time and practice to develop good study habits.
- **Talk about the Assignments**
 - Talking and asking questions can help your child to think through an assignment and break it down into small, manageable parts.
- **Watch for Frustration**
 - If your child shows signs of frustration, let him take a break. Encourage him and let him see that you know he can do the work.
- **Give Praise**
 - People of all ages respond to praise. And children need encouragement from the people whose opinions they value most—their families.

Homework at Jasper Middle School

Read for 20 minutes a day

Math Spiral Review

The importance of reading 20 minutes a day

- Early reading skills can affect children's academic success
 - Reading 20 minutes a day exposes kids to a vast quantity of words (1.8 million in each school year, actually!). And this exposure makes children more likely to score in the 90th percentile on standardized tests.
 - If you compare this to children who read just 5 minutes per day — and are therefore more likely to score in the 50th percentile — it's easy to see how reading time translates to academic success.
- Reading often helps to improve writing skills
 - The more words your kid reads, the wider their vocabulary is likely to be. A wide vocabulary makes a kid's writing more interesting and impressive.
- Reading stimulates and enhances children's imaginations
 - Recent research shows that the imagination may be more powerful than believed previously — scientists now believe that creative imaging can 'rewrite' certain memories to be less traumatic, and can even enhance certain physical connections within the body.

The importance of reading 20 minutes a day cont.

- Fiction stimulates creativity in children
 - Getting lost in a fictional world helps kids to expand their own creativity, as they'll experience situations, worlds, characters, thoughts, and feeling that they may not have come across in their own lives just yet.
- A good book encourages children to relax at bedtime
 - Kids, no matter their age, have *a lot* going on. They're constantly learning, and changes like the transition from middle school to high school can be stressful for some.
 - The good news is, either reading with your child — or allowing them to read independently at bedtime — can help them to relax and wind down from their day.
- Regularly reading helps kids develop empathy
 - Studies show that reading can help children to develop empathy, by challenging them to consider how other people (the characters) may think or feel.

The importance of reading 20 minutes a day

WHY READ 20 MINUTES AT HOME?		
Student A Reads	Student B Reads	Student C Reads
❖ 20 minutes per day.	❖ 5 minutes per day.	❖ 1 minute per day
❖ 3,600 minutes per school year.	❖ 900 minutes per school year.	❖ 180 minutes per school year.
❖ 1,800,000 words per year.	❖ 282,000 words per year.	❖ 8,000 words per year.
		
❖ Scores in the 90 th percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 50 th percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 10 th percentile on standardized tests.
If they start reading for 20 minutes per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6 th grade, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 school days, and Student C will have read for 3.		
<small>(Nagy and Herman, 1987.)</small>		
WANT TO BE A BETTER READER? SIMPLY READ.		

The Benefits of Math Spiral Review:

- “Perfect Portions”: Daily Spiral Review tasks are “bite-sized” pieces that are easy to fit into your day and do not overwhelm your students.
- ”Preview Power”: Since Daily Spiral Reviews cover all standards, students are exposed to concepts that they may not have had formal instruction on. This presents a great opportunity for you to build background knowledge and assess where your students are before you even teach a specific lesson; that is **POWERFUL!**
- “Unfamiliar Content”: As mentioned above, students will encounter concepts they are unfamiliar with. It’s healthy to expose students to “unknowns”; they become less sensitive to the uncomfortable feeling of “not knowing” and are less likely to panic.

The Benefits of Math Spiral Review:

- “Improves Retention”: The repetition and consistent work throughout the year ensure that your students will not forget things taught in the fall (or even the week before;-).
- “Confidence Booster”: After just a few weeks they become much more confident and sure of their own math skills. It’s really satisfying to see students get so efficient with the review.
- “Ultimate Assessment”: Talk about having your finger on the pulse of all your students! When you use consistently use a spiral review with your students, you REALLY know their strengths and needs. This valuable insight will allow you to perfectly tailor your instruction to meet the needs of your students.
- “Bye Test-Prep”: No more kill-and-drill test prep!!! Your students will be prepared and confident when it comes to high-stakes testing.

How JMS Helps

JMS offers tutoring:

Monday and Wednesday afternoons until 5:00pm

Tuesday and Thursday Mornings starting at
7:15am

How JMS Helps

Reach out to your students teachers. They are a valuable resource and know how to assist you to help your students.

How JMS Helps

Mrs. Rickman is our school Media Specialist. She can assist by recommending reading materials for your student.

stephanierickman@pickenscountyschools.org

Online Resources

Dreambox- students can **set and monitor their weekly usage goals as well as select math topics based on their interests**. Additionally, students engage with adaptive technology that provides the perfect amount of productive struggle where students need perseverance – and builds confidence along the way.

JMS Students are responsible for completing 5 lessons a week. Students work on these during homeroom on Monday and Wednesday. Please check with your students teacher for individual goals.

Online Resources

Reading Plus is an adaptive literacy solution that improves fluency, comprehension, vocabulary, stamina, and motivation.

Students work on Reading Plus on Tuesday and Thursday during homeroom. Teachers have set a weekly goal based on your student. If your student is not sure about their goal, please check with your student's teacher.

Resources RTI - Math

DreamBox Learning® Math offers a research-based math intervention program for students identified as struggling with math or who require additional academic support. Use DreamBox Learning independently, in small groups, or with instructors to overcome math challenges at each of the three Tiers. Teachers push lessons out to students based on their gaps shown in benchmarks.

Liftoff identifies academic gaps by providing adaptive intervention and a highly engaging learning environment to help students reach specific academic standards. Teachers and interventionists can engage with a variety of reports to help them monitor their students' progress and assist in planning small group instruction.

Resources RTI - ELA

Reading Plus - Differentiated & Adaptive For Tier II, the core curriculum may not be enough to support their skill acquisition needs. A supplemental reading program like Reading Plus can accelerate student reading gains with:

- Personalized practice
- Engaging, motivating content
- Success that builds student's self-confidence

Resources RTI - ELA

The **Fountas & Pinnell Leveled Literacy Intervention System** (LLI) is an intensive, small-group, supplementary literacy intervention for students who find reading and writing difficult. The goal of LLI is to lift the literacy achievement of students who are not achieving grade-level expectations in reading.

- Advance the literacy learning of students not meeting grade-level expectations in reading
- Deepen and expand comprehension with close reading
- Elevate the expertise of teachers
- Increase reading volume by engaging students in large amounts of successful daily reading
- Increase student engagement with books that build knowledge
- Intervene with small groups of struggling readers to maximize growth
- Meet the needs of struggling readers
- Monitor student progress.

Resources

- [Homework: A Concern for the Whole Family, U.S. Department of Education, First published in September 1995. Revised 2002 and 2005.](#)
- [Why Children Should Read 20 Minutes a Day and How This Impacts Your Kids' Development – At Any Age](#)
- [The Benefits of Daily Spiral Review](#)
- [Research-based math intervention works](#)
- [Addressing Learning Gaps for Math and Reading](#)
- [Leveled Literacy Intervention \(LLI\)](#)