



## **Our Lady Queen of Angels School Homework Policy**

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Our Lady Queen of Angels School believes that homework serves as one of the vital components of an instructional program when it is relevant, reasonable and reinforcing. These types of homework assignments assist students in practicing previously taught skills, extending thinking about a topic of study and developing responsibility.

Homework assignments will:

- a) have a specific purpose;
- b) focus on mastery of essential concepts and skills;
- c) emphasize quality over quantity; and
- d) exhibit a direct connection to classroom learning.

Our long-term goals in assigning homework are for students to (i) practice self-discipline, (ii) deepen intellectual understandings and (iii) build confidence as learners.

### **Time Frame Guidelines for Homework**

Research indicates that establishing time limits based on grade level and ability and encouraging open communication between teachers, parents and students is beneficial to learning outcomes. The Homework Resolution (2014) adopted by the California PTA (and endorsed by the National PTA and National Educational Association) advocates that schools follow evidence-based guidelines regarding “time expected to be spent on homework and how it impacts family interaction and the balanced life of the whole child.”

Due to recent research and recommendations, the time frames set forth below have been proposed for OLQA students. The “10-minute rule” suggests the optimum amount of homework assigned for each grade level. The specified time frame includes task completion, as well as time spent studying. This policy is being continuously assessed by the school administration and faculty as a work in progress, with the understanding that flexibility is a critical element in any successful homework program.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Homework Time Frame</u>
Kindergarten	15 minutes of nightly reading* Monday-Thursday
Grade 1	0-10 minutes/night Monday-Thursday 15 minutes of nightly reading*
Grade 2	0-20 minutes/night Monday-Thursday 15 minutes of nightly reading*
Grade 3	0-30 minutes/night Monday-Thursday 15 minutes of nightly reading*
Grade 4	0-40 minutes/night Monday-Thursday 20+ minutes of nightly reading*
Grade 5	0-50 minutes/night Monday-Thursday 20+ minutes of nightly reading*
Grades 6-8	Average of 60-80 minutes/night (including <i>all</i> disciplines of study). Students may be asked to spend time on weekends for long-term assignments or required reading
*Reading includes having adults read to/with children, as well as audio books.	

**OLQA places a strong emphasis on fostering a love for, and enjoyment of, independent reading. As such, reading is encouraged on a daily basis, including weekends and vacations.**

If a student experiences difficulty completing the work in the specified time frames, parents/guardians have the option of signing off at the upper time limit for completing work, provided that the student has worked studiously and has produced quality work.

If a student is *consistently* experiencing difficulty completing assignments within the established time frames, please communicate with the teacher to determine appropriate modifications. Communication and collaboration between the school and home are paramount in ensuring student success!

Resources:

- C. Vatterott (2009). Rethinking Homework: Best Practices that Support Diverse Needs.
- H. Cooper (2001). Homework for All-In Moderation
- Homework Resolution Act (2014):  
[http://downloads.capta.org/con/HomeworkResolution\\_2014.pdf](http://downloads.capta.org/con/HomeworkResolution_2014.pdf)