

Diefenbaker Elementary School Homework Statement

Diefenbaker staff and parents believe that all of us want our children to achieve their potential academically, to be socially and emotionally healthy and to have opportunities for a variety of fine arts, sports and cultural activities. We value family time pursuing our own and shared interests, and building relationships that will sustain us through the ups and downs of life. We want our children to spend independent quiet time each day, in order to develop habits of commitment, planning and perseverance. Homework is one example of this but so are:

- card games
- board games
- lego construction
- hobbies
- practicing an instrument /singing
- reading
- children's service clubs
- attending language school
- attending religious instruction
- arts and crafts
- dance and gymnastics
- free play and exploration
- helping with grocery lists
- counting money & making change
- baking/cooking & measuring
- writing cards, notes and invitations
- household chores and responsibilities



All of these activities require the child to be focused, to plan and to make decisions and to provide concrete evidence to children that the habits we value are not just to respond to the expectations or deadlines of parents and teachers, but rather are lifelong skills. To that end, homework should be part of a balanced lifestyle that allows time for moral or spiritual development, hobbies, sports, fine arts, play and household chores.

At Diefenbaker School, homework is a part of the educational partnership among the student, home and school. Conferences, parent information evenings, class newsletters, digital portfolios and individual meetings are opportunities for parents and students to review expectations and assignments. An ongoing dialogue between parents, teachers, and students about how to best support student success is our commitment.

How much homework is typical?

For primary aged children no more than 20 to 30 minutes should be spent on assigned homework. Of course if a child wishes to read for a longer time, or is naturally curious about a topic, he or she may choose to spend more time pursuing that interest. Intermediate aged children should spend 30 to 60 minutes a day, four or five days a week on homework or review. In addition, reading is always time well spent.

BC's Redesigned Curriculum

As you may know BC's curriculum has undergone change. This redesigned curriculum is still focused on learning the basics of reading, writing, and math, but connects them to collaboration, communication and critical thinking skills. The students will be challenged to apply their skills and knowledge in new, often interdisciplinary situations. Students will focus on academics through added lenses of technology, aboriginal perspectives, and the Core Competencies (communication, thinking, and personal and social responsibility) For more information please visit: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>

Please be mindful that along with the change in BC's curriculum, there may be a change in what homework looks like. What you may see your child bringing home for homework may look familiar or may take on a very different look than you are used to. If you have any questions regarding homework, Diefenbaker staff and your child's teacher will be more than happy to discuss what homework will look like in your child's classroom.