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# Homework Survey Summary

Several weeks ago, parents participated in an informal survey on a new initiative to move away from rigorous academic homework in favor of activities that may develop social and emotional skills, such as communication and growth mindset. Two hundred eighteen parents participated, and 150 took the time to write detailed comments.

Teachers at SCES initiated this movement out of concern about students who report or show signs of anxiety related to school and homework. This decision was not entered into lightly; for the past several years, teachers have observed an increase in the number of parents reporting that students were frustrated and upset by homework. This effort connected to our school-wide focus on Social-Emotional well-being, which is the primary goal of our School Improvement Plan as well as a key component of the AACPS Strategic Plan. It our intention to continue to foster rigorous academic expectations with keeping in mind the whole child, including their social-emotional well-being.

One result of the survey was very clear--parents are very interested and passionate about their opinions on this topic. However, survey results of parents and teachers indicated that there is a wide range in opinions regarding homework in the community. There is no consensus and no clear majority about parents' preferences in assigning homework.

Parents of older students voiced a concern about getting students into a homework routine to prepare students for middle school. We are reaching out to Severna Park Middle School to see what their homework expectations are so we can work to scaffold our expectations to align with theirs.

## Results

- Significantly, over a third of parents (35%) reported on the survey that their child reports feeling worried or anxious about his/her performance in school.
- 62% of parents agree or strongly agree that homework is important to students' academic success.
- 70% of parents agree or strongly agree that homework is important for knowing what children are doing in school.
- 50% agree or strongly agree that homework is a stressful time for their family, and 61% agree or strongly agree that their family has extra-curricular activities every night.
- 57% agree or strongly agree that it is difficult for their family to dedicate time to homework every night.
- Only 6% of parents reported that they want homework structured every night, and only 8% reported that they wanted it structured 1-2 nights per week. The rest of the parents surveyed preferred more flexible options.



# Homework Procedures K-5

The school leadership team, which includes teachers from all grade levels, thoughtfully considered the survey results and county guidelines to develop a K-5 continuum of homework. Each grade will continue to send a calendar, so parents may anticipate homework for the month. Here is what families can expect beginning on November 5, 2018. Please contact your child's teacher if you have specific questions about the calendars. Additional homework resources for parents wanting more will be posted on the grade level's Google Site and/or [ShipleysChoiceSchool.org](http://ShipleysChoiceSchool.org). Calendar will be distributed in homework folders as well as posted on grade level Google Sites if applicable. Calendars should be returned on the first of the following month.

<p><b>Grade 5</b> Monthly homework calendar with <b>required, academic homework two times per week</b> and other options 1-2 times per week designed to foster social and emotional well-being.</p> <p>Students will also occasionally bring home unfinished classwork, or material that is necessary to prepare and study for an upcoming assessment.</p>	<p><b>Grade 4</b> Monthly choice board with a mixture of academic and social/emotional activities that will support and extend school learning.</p> <p>It is expected that students will review their graded work with a parent/guardian each week</p> <p>Ideas for families to supplement will be posted on the grade's Google Site.</p> <p>Students will occasionally bring home unfinished classwork, or material that is necessary to prepare or study for an upcoming assessment.</p>
<p><b>Grade 3</b> Monthly calendar with a balance of academic and social/emotional activities that will support and extend school learning. <b>A minimum of 5 academic activities will be required per month.</b></p> <p>Ideas for families to supplement will be posted on the grade's Google Site.</p> <p>Students will also occasionally bring home unfinished classwork, or material that is necessary to prepare and study for an upcoming assessment.</p>	<p><b>Grade 2</b> Monthly choice board with social/emotional choices as well as academic choices of activities. The number of required choices will increase each month throughout the school year.</p> <p>Second Grade will also gradually add a few mandatory activities per month that will be attached to the calendar, such as mathematics and/ or spelling.</p> <p>Students will occasionally bring home unfinished classwork that needs to be completed at home and returned to school the next day.</p>
<p><b>Grade 1</b> Students will choose and complete 15 activities from the monthly Homework Calendar. The calendar provides a variety of academic and social/relationship building tasks.</p> <p>In addition, students will be expected to read for 10 minutes each day.</p>	<p><b>Kindergarten</b> Choose and complete 10 activities from the monthly Homework Calendar.</p> <p>Students should read with an adult for 10 minutes at least 4 nights per week.</p>