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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Fifth and sixth grade is a crucial stage in your child's educational process. These grades help prepare students for the rigor of 7th grade. Because of this, in order to communicate our expectations, the fifth and sixth grade team is attaching a chart that depicts the amount of time it takes an average student to complete the assigned work. Please see the chart on the opposite page.

Our goal in assigning homework is to keep students on pace to meet the expectations as set by New York State Learning Standards. We assign homework in order for students to practice the necessary skills needed to be successful. The work assigned is intended to be independent work. Parents are not expected to need to teach material. **If a student truly does not understand the work, teachers are available before school, during lunch, or during study halls for extra help.**

If a student is utilizing class time wisely, it typically takes the average fifth and sixth grader about an hour to complete the work that is assigned each night. Most students have one study hall every day. Some students have more than one study hall a day. In many cases, students are finishing their homework in school.

To help your child manage his or her time, we suggest that students get in the habit of sitting down at a desk or table, in a space with limited distractions, immediately after school. This will provide the best possible environment to ensure success.

It is not our intent for the homework to take an excessive amount of time. If your child is taking two hours or more to do homework each night, please contact us. We are available to set up a meeting to assess the situation and come up with a plan to support your child.

Each student has been assigned a username and password to be able to access grades from the PowerSchool Gradebook. Please check your child's grades and missing assignments on a weekly basis or any time there is a concern about homework and grades. If for some reason you do not have your child's username and password, contact Shelly Grant in the main office.

Thank you for your time, effort, and support.

Sincerely,

Lisa Looney
Tim Smith
Eric Weinman

Homework Assigned on a Daily Basis	
math	10-15 questions, 15-20 minutes
spelling	10-15 minutes
writing	10 minutes: Most work is completed in class with the exception of longer writing essays. In the beginning of the school year, at least one week is given to complete longer assignments.
social studies	15-20 minutes
science	5-10 minutes
reading	See explanation below.

***Independent Reading: In addition to the above homework, students should be reading at least 30 minutes each night, 5 nights a week. This accumulates to 150 minutes of reading each week. Students are to fill in their reading logs to recall what they have read and to ensure they're tracking the time spent reading. If a student foresees an issue with completing one night of 30 minute reading, he/she may choose to read extra during the weekend or another time during the week. If an unforeseen issue arises, students should make up the 30 minutes of reading as soon as possible. Students have the flexibility to read whichever days/nights are most convenient as long as it totals a minimum of 150 minutes per week. This task is assigned to continue improving comprehension and fluency at each student's own individual pace.

The New York State Education Department has recommended that students read a minimum of 25 books a year to be college and career ready. Students who read regularly have a more sophisticated vocabulary and broader knowledge base.