

There are many assumptions about homework by parents and teachers. Some of these include:

1. Homework provides practice at home.
2. Homework helps parents know what is happening in the classroom.
3. Homework creates a sense of work ethic.

Recent research done has actually proven none of these to be true.

Alfie Kohn (2006) found that the assumptions stated above are actually urban myths. He also found that homework has a negative impact on national averages and student achievement.

Eric Hallman (2004) found that homework is more re-teaching than practice. The parent has to come home and teach all over again. In addition, instead of providing attainment of the skill it merely becomes completion of the assignment or pages given.

Sara Bennet and Nancy Kalish (2012) found that homework does not respect the home. Students have worked hard all day and so have their parents. Parents want children to be in pathfinders, extra-curricular sports, extra-curricular music lessons, and help out with chores at home. After working hard all day the parent comes home to a child burdened down with homework, has to make dinner, do dishes, do laundry, mow the lawn, fix the car, have family worship, and get the child to all the extra-curricular activities. This becomes a formula for disaster, resulting in crying, arguments, and worst of all a HATE of school.

Ellen White (1910) stated that Adventist homes should be balanced. We recognize that quantity of assignment is not indicative of quality education. In an attempt to help restore balance Mendinghall is choosing to respect the home.

Mendinghall teachers will assign project-based work that involves the family and has a meaningful impact on the child's educational experience once per quarter. Mendinghall teachers will additionally assign respectful homework tasks that may include: 1) nightly reading (as assigned by teacher, and not to exceed 20-minutes per night and may include family worship time); 2) practicing memory verses, spelling, math facts; and 3) any make up work or work not completed in class.

The parent and the child have both had a hard day at work (yes, school is the student's office). Mendinghall teachers will work in cooperation with the home to restore balance, perspective, and understanding that life is more than just about what you can learn from a book.

The following are some tips for parents to manage homework:

- Show an interest while avoiding being more interested in their schoolwork than they are – or it risks making it “your thing” and not “their thing.”
- Set rules about when and where homework should be done.
- Try not to offer your help before your children ask. This will boost their confidence in completing homework without constant adult intervention.
- Your actions as a parent should not be primarily about making them successful now, but about building the life skills that will enable them to be successful in the future without your assistance.