RATIONALE FOR STUDY

We recognize that learning is a personal experience and that there are variety of different instructional strategies that can be used to effectively to connect individual learners with content. One instructional strategy that is used to help learners practice and apply content is homework.

Research around this topic is widespread and suggests that homework has differing value for different learners. Our goal is to explore how homework is assigned to best meet the needs for our students.
GOALS OF STUDY

• Conduct research on best strategies for homework.

• Survey parents, teachers, and students to gain insight on current homework practices and impact on after-school time.

• Conduct action-research to implement researched based strategies for homework within 7th grade.

• Create task-force to review data from action-research and develop universal guidelines for homework and PASS period.
TIMELINE

• October - November 2019- Researched best practices for homework
• December 2019- Surveyed EMS parents, students and teachers
• January 2020- Reviewed survey data
• January 2020- Synthesized survey feedback and research to create guidelines for homework action-research with Team O (7th grade)
• February 2020- Parents from Team O contacted about study and provided an additional survey.
• February 18th -March 20th, 2020- Action-research conducted with Team O
• March 2020- Exit survey will be provided to students, teachers, and parents of Team O
• April 2020- Task force will be created to review results of action research
• May-June 2020- Develop universal guidelines for homework to be presented to staff for further discussion. Create universal expectations for PASS time and independent practice.
INITIAL SURVEYS

- Conducted from end of December 2019 to early January 2020.
- Determine factors related to homework including time, after school obligations, sleep, and mental well-being.
- Surveyed EMS parents, students, and teachers
  - 163 parent responses
  - 531 students
  - 29 teachers
STUDENTS: ABOUT HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU SPEND ON HOMEWORK ON A TYPICAL DAY?
STUDENTS: DOES HOMEWORK CAUSE STRESS IN YOUR HOME?
INITIAL SURVEY RESULTS AT A GLANCE

PARENTS AND STUDENTS

• Need for meaningful homework
• Shorter homework assignments (time)
• Homework takes away from family time and other obligations

TEACHERS

• Approximately 25% of teachers surveyed indicated that the purpose of homework was to cover what was not covered in class.
• Noted that if students do not complete homework they will fall behind
• Expansion of survey

• Impact of schedule to complete homework at MS and HS

• What have we learned from the virtual environment that informs the homework discussion?