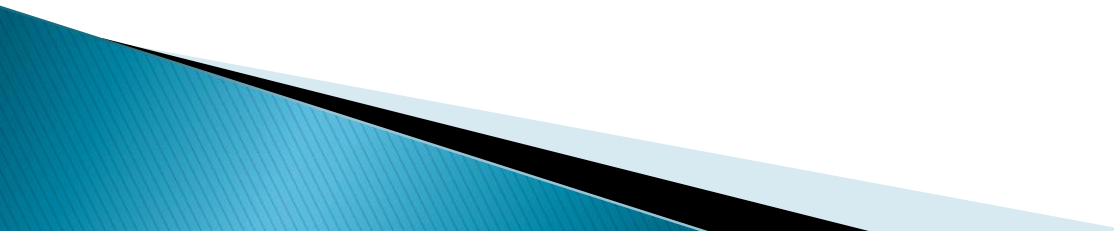


Metuchen Homework Summit

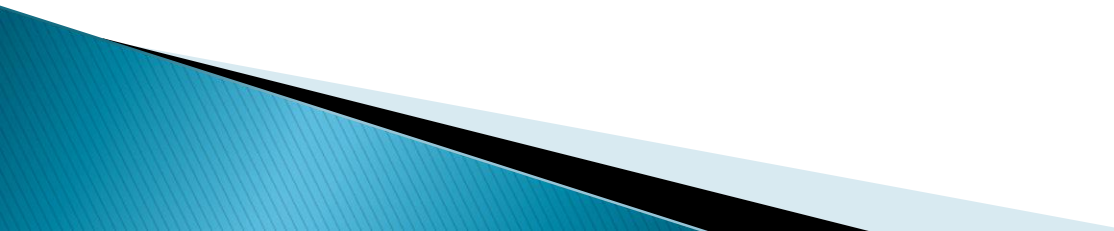
9 March 2016

Welcome!

We will be conducting a question and answer session during tonight's program. Please write any questions you might have about homework on one of the index cards provided. We will collect them as we begin.



District Goal : “Full review of best practices on the importance and use of homework as an instructional tool.”

- Homework Summit—a chance to gather and share information with the community.
 - District Homework Committee – Purpose: To conduct a review of alignment between the district’s current homework practices and research-based “best practices”.
- 

January Homework Summit Recap

- ▶ The following questions were raised during the January Homework Summit:
 - What is the appropriate quantity of homework?
 - What purposes does homework serve?
 - How is homework graded?
 - Is time to prepare for tests/quizzes factored into homework time? Is there a fair “balance”?
 - Should parents help with homework? What kind of help is appropriate?
- ▶ It was also shared that access to computers at home wasn't of concern to those present.

January Homework Summit Recap

Questions about the quantity and type of Summer homework were also asked, but delayed due to lack of time. They will be addressed this evening.

Summer Assignments: Current Practice

- ▶ Moss and Campbell: no summer assignments.
- ▶ Edgar

Grade	Subject	Assignment	Purpose
6-8	Math	Plato: online software, work customized to students' level	Practice and skill development
5-8	ELA	Read 2 books: 1 free choice, 1 an assigned genre. Prepare a reading journal using guided format.	Journal assists recall, facilitates critical understanding.

Summer Assignments: Current Practice

► MHS

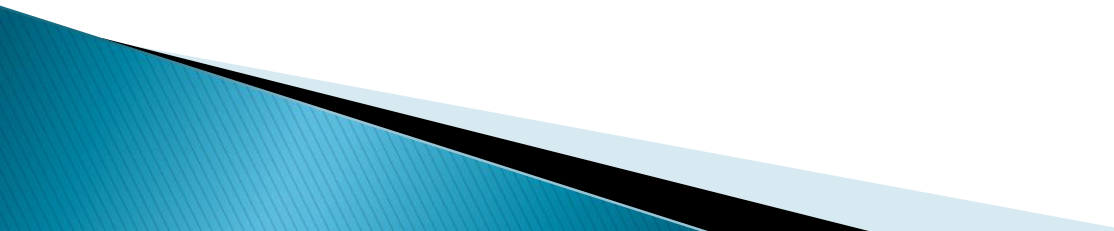
Grade	Subject	Assignment	Purpose
9-12	Math Hon/AP	Varied assignments from texts.	Review, practice and skill development.
9-12	ELA, non AP	Read 1 reader selected book. Prepare journal or presentation.	Journal assists recall, facilitates critical understanding.
11-12	ELA AP	Read 1 reader selected book. Prepare dialectic journal. AP 12 analyze 1 poem.	Develop text analysis skills, critical understanding.
9	Honors Soc. St.	Read 1 of three books. 2-3pp response.	Intro to course.
10-12	AP Soc. St.	US: Research and develop notes. Prepare question responses. AP Euro or Gov. : 2 book reviews and 2 film reviews.	Intro to course material.

Summer Assignments: Current Practice

▶ MHS

Grade	Subject	Assignment	Purpose
11-11	AP Science	Varied assignments: text and/or online.	Skill development and Intro to course material.
11-12	Spanish 4H	Read El Cid/respond to questions. Read and watch news in Spanish.	Intro to literature themes, skill development in language.
11-12	Spanish 5 AP	Latin American literature assignment. Television viewing journal.	Intro to Latin American literature, skill development in language.

Summer Assignments: Discussion

- ▶ Panel: Teachers, Parent, Students, HW committee chairs.
 - ▶ Open to public discussion: we welcome your input!
- 

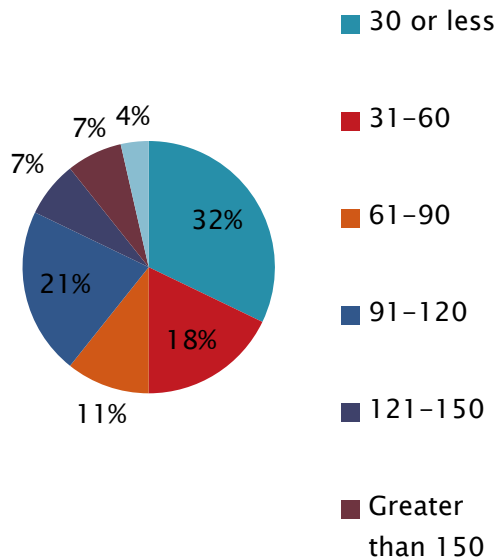
Metuchen Homework Committee: Some Survey Results

- ▶ Surveys regarding homework practices were administered to Students in Grades 6–12, Teachers in Grades 1–12, and Parents.
 - 557 Students responded, most in grades 6–9
 - 95 Teachers in Grades 1–12 responded
 - 141 Parents responded: parents were instructed they could submit a survey for each child, so some responses may be from the same parent(s).

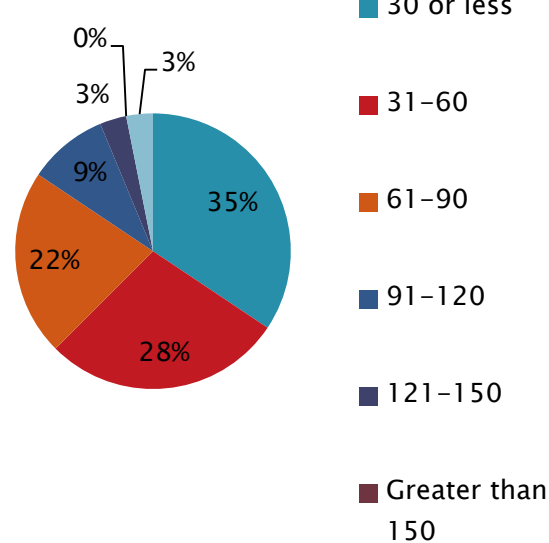
Metuchen Homework Committee: Some Survey Results

Please estimate the number of minutes per week your students would spend on homework you assigned.

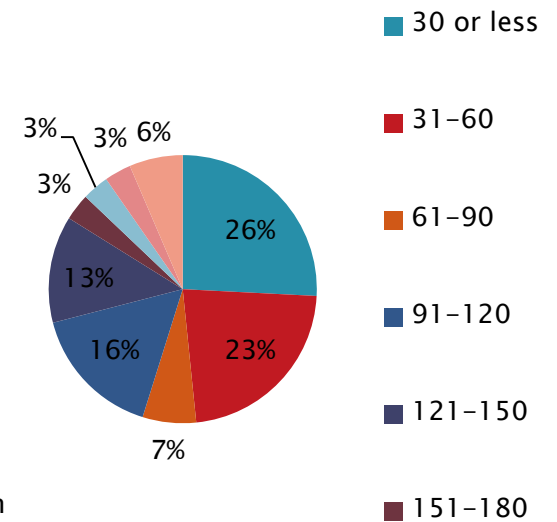
HW min/week: CES Teacher Survey



HW min/week: EMS Teacher Survey



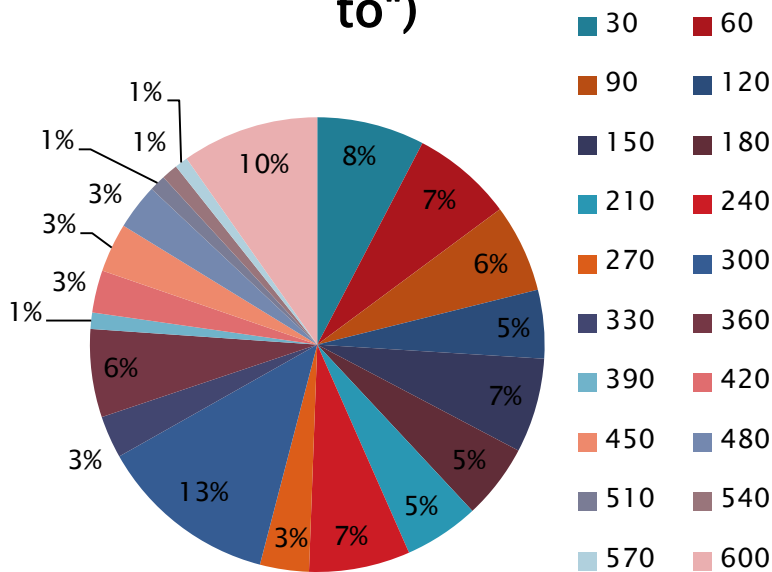
HW min/week: MHS Teacher Survey



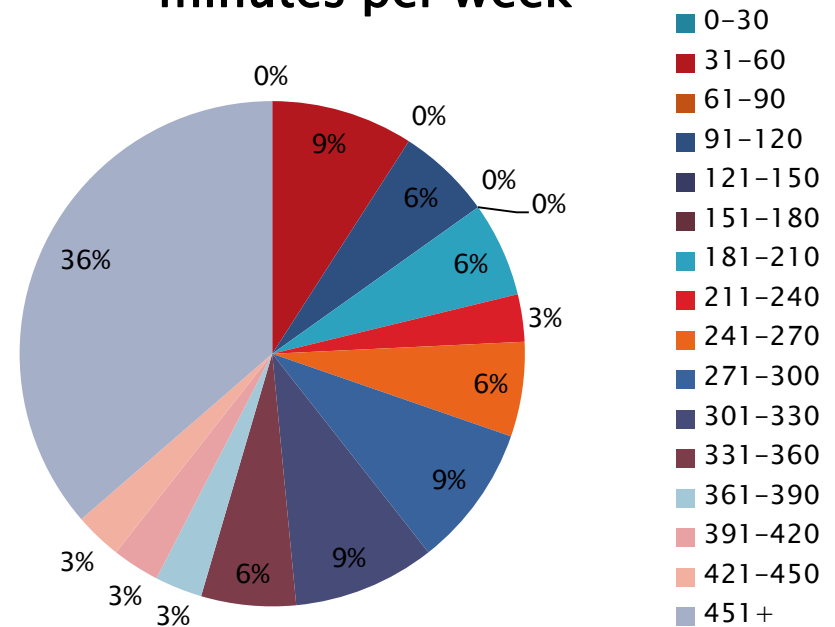
Metuchen Homework Committee: Some Survey Results

Please estimate the number of minutes per week you spend on assigned homework.

Gr. 6–9 Student Reported HW minutes per week ("up to")



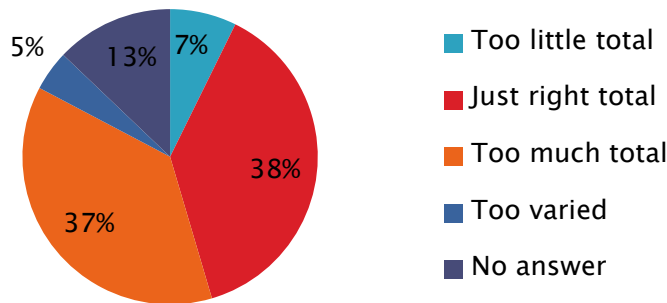
Gr. 6–9 Parent Reported HW minutes per week



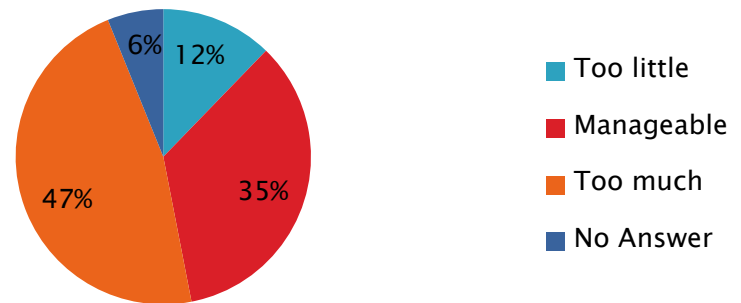
Metuchen Homework Committee: Some Survey Results

What is your opinion on how much homework is assigned?

Students' Opinion on HW Quantity Gr. 6–9



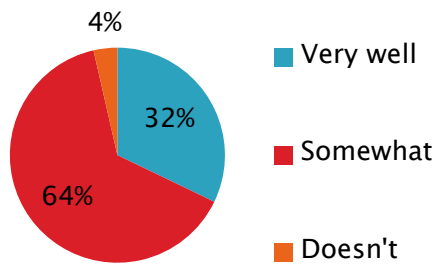
Parents' Opinion on HW Quantity Gr. 6–9



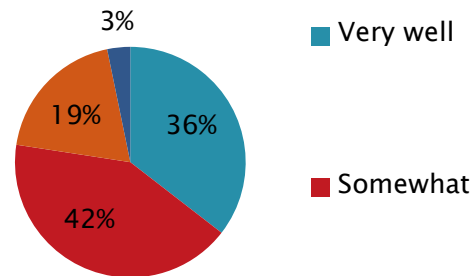
Metuchen Homework Committee: Some Survey Results

- ▶ In your opinion, does homework “work”?

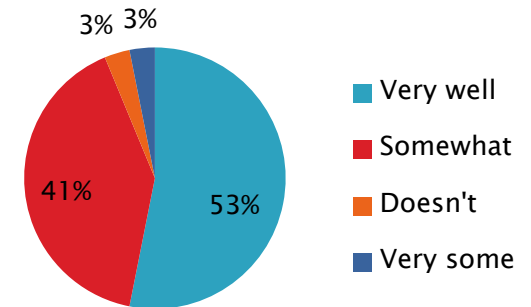
Does HW “work”?: CES
Teacher Survey



Does HW “work”?: EMS
Teacher Survey



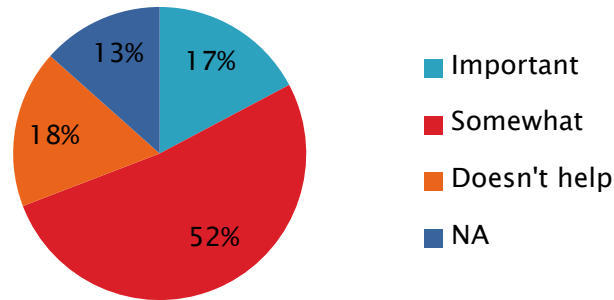
Does HW “work”?: MHS
Teacher Survey



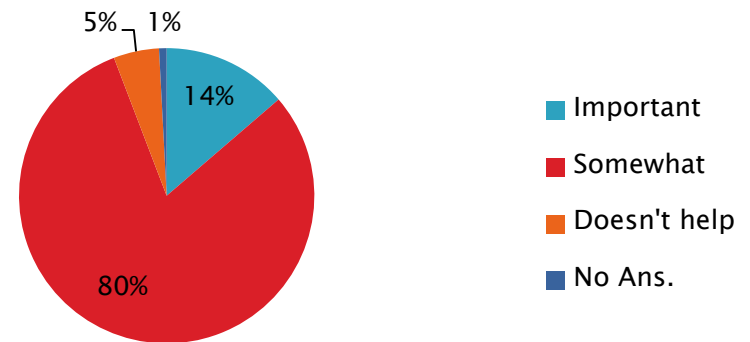
Metuchen Homework Committee: Some Survey Results

- ▶ In your opinion, does homework “work”?

Does Homework Work?
Student responses



Does Homework Work?
Parent responses

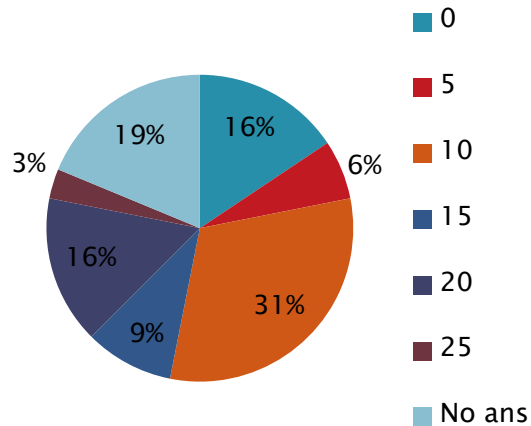


Metuchen Homework Committee: Some Survey Results

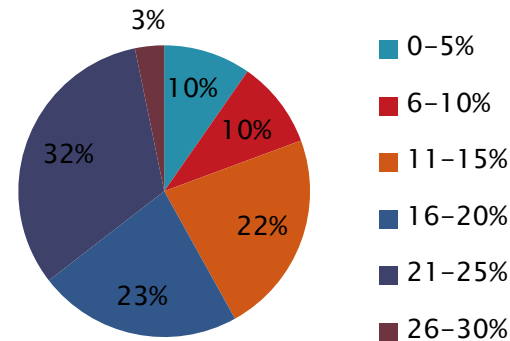
What portion of your grade is based on homework?

CES: Almost universally none or minimal.

HW Portion of Grade: EMS
Teacher Survey



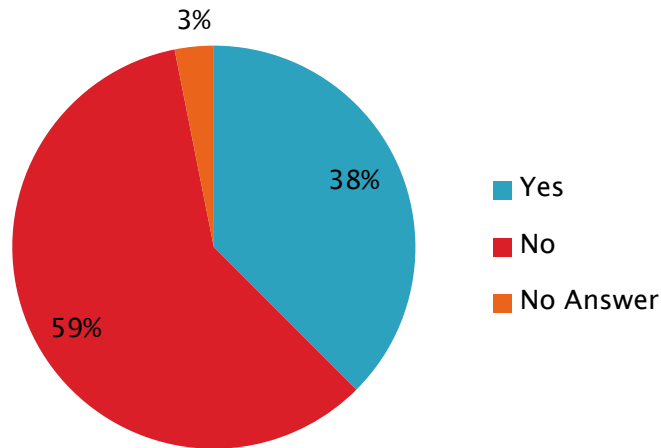
HW grade portion: MHS
Teacher Survey



Metuchen Homework Committee: Some Survey Results

- ▶ Do you assign homework over breaks (winter and spring break)?
- ▶ Campbell: Universally “No”.
- ▶ Edgar: 28/31 “No”.
- ▶ MHS

HW over breaks?: MHS Teacher
Survey




Research Findings: Ongoing

- Impact of Homework on Student Performance
 - Some Practices that Affect Student Performance

Practice	Improvement, # std dev
Reinforcement	1.17
Graded Homework (feedback)	.79
Cooperative Learning	.76
Morale	.60
Instructional Time	.38
Individualized Instruction	.32
Assigned Homework	.28
Advanced Organizers	.23
Homogeneous Groups	.10

Research Findings: Ongoing

- ▶ Research supports a correlation between homework and student performance, however excessive homework has a negative impact.
 - ▶ Research suggests approximately 10 minutes per grade, with an upper limit of 2–3 hours at the high school level.
 - ▶ Research supports a variety of homework purposes, including:
 - Assessment of learning– who “got it”
 - Reinforcement
 - Practice of skills
 - Critical Thinking and application
 - Appreciation of learning outside school
 - Extension of learning time
- 

Homework on Twitter: #Ed Therapy

- ▶ What is the most important purpose of homework?
 - Best purposes are to check for understanding and to diagnose skill level.
 - A1: An opportunity for Ss to practice.
 - 4th & 5th grade T in Maine. The most important purpose of HW in my mind is to spark conversation at home, connect w community
 - A1 To check to see if students “got it” or whether reteaching is necessary.
 - A1: Hw should be a place for Ss to think and explore.
 - A1: I've seen some great examples of Ts using very short HW to help them prepare for differentiation in the next lesson.

Homework on Twitter: #Ed Therapy

- ▶ How much homework is too much?
 - A2: In my HS classes, too much for me is >30–40 mins.
 - A2pt2: But if all 6–7 teachers gave 30 mins/night, that's 3.5 hrs of straight HW...hmmm...
 - A2: District says under an hour? Depends on the skill, the kid, the work... that's hard to answer.
 - I would think depends on students in class / interests etc, like anything else 1 size won't fit all imo.
 - PTA and NEA recommend no more than 10 minutes per grade level per night all subjects combined. (excluding reading!)

Community Input

- ▶ Question and Answer Session

Our Promise to You

We will continue to work to achieve

A reasonable quantity of quality homework.

Thank you for coming!

