

Homework

Philosophy

We believe that homework is a valuable strategy for developing life long learning habits. Homework represents a way to reinforce classroom instruction. It is an important means of promoting communication and involvement in the learning process between parents, students and teachers.

Definition of Homework

1. Assigned to practice skills or concepts taught in class.
2. Assigned homework shall be directly related to classroom instruction.
3. Includes exploratory projects, use media or involve observation as well as traditional forms such as pencil/paper activities.
4. Can be completed independently in small groups or with parents.
5. Involves parent participation but does not require initial, direct instruction from the parent.

Goals for Homework

1. Promotes parents/student and teacher communication.
2. Involves parents in support of their student's learning.
3. Promotes independent study habits.
4. Allows for individual differences.
5. Extends and reinforces the academic experiences at school.
6. Encourage higher order thinking.
7. Assignments must be processed in a timely manner appropriate to the task.

Policy

1. To be effective, homework standards and assignments must:

- Be clear to parents, students and teachers;
- Take into account the student's age, developmental stage and out-of-school activities;
- Be a reflection of class activities;
- Be different from remediation or make-up work.

2. Make-Up Work

Students may be required to make up missed assignments, based upon the teacher's assessment of student's needs.

3. Family Vacations

We believe that every day at school is important for the student's growth and that classroom experiences missed during family vacations cannot be duplicated. We also believe that family vacations are valuable learning experiences and that students should capitalize on those experiences rather than be burdened by completing all missed assignments. Upon returning from a vacation some school work may need to be completed to ensure progress although it may not be appropriate that the student make-up every missed assignment.

Possible Vacation Learning Activities:

- Develop a photo journal;
- Create a scrapbook;
- Make a video tape;
- Send a postcard to class;
- Publish a book about the trip;
- Keep a journal of vacation experiences;
- Conduct research about the place(s) ;
- Share experiences with the class.

Responding to Non-Assigned Homework

Students often are motivated to generate their own investigation or practice skills. Teachers should be prepared to recognize these efforts by comment, questions and providing opportunities for sharing or display of the work.

Recommendations

1. Each fall, the staff should review the homework policy.
2. Teachers at each grade level should discuss and understand each other's homework standards and practices.

3. Teachers should limit assigned homework to Monday through Thursday.

Generally, assignments should not exceed the following daily amounts of time:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Minutes</u>
Kindergarten	0 Minutes
1st Grade	15 Minutes
2nd Grade	20 Minutes
3rd Grade	30 Minutes
4th Grade	30 Minutes
5th Grade	45 Minutes
6th-8th Grades	60 Minutes

4. Teachers should be responsible for explaining their homework programs to the parents.
5. The homework policy should be part of the student handbook.
6. Approximately one-third of the classroom time will be provided for assignment completion.