

HOMEWORK

Homework can be an extremely valuable extension of classroom instruction. Homework should develop the student's sense of responsibility providing an opportunity for the exercise of independence, time management and organizational skills.

Homework assignments should be carefully planned and designed to create opportunities for a student to both practice individual skills and to demonstrate cumulative learning as well as to inform the teacher which skills need to be re-taught or reinforced. The expectation is that all homework will be checked with appropriate feedback given to each student in a timely manner.

Homework shall be assigned according to these guidelines:

1. Homework should be a routinely planned and clearly articulated part of the curriculum.
2. Homework should help children learn. Research indicates that carefully planned homework helps students to: *master basic rules*; *increase skill speed*; *deepen understanding of concepts*; and *prepare for subsequent learning*. Teachers should strive to match the type of homework given to the learning goal to make homework a focused learning experience.
3. Homework should be evaluated in a timely manner and utilized to both inform instruction and provide valuable feedback to the student and family.
4. Large quantities of repetitive homework should *not* be given. (Practicing mistakes cements inappropriate procedures and makes them hard to overcome).
5. Every effort shall be made to assure that there is a balance with the number, frequency and degree of difficulty of homework assignments, particularly when students have more than one teacher. Research indicates that a good rule of thumb is to multiply the grade level of the student by ten minutes to gauge the correct amount of homework time *in total* to assign per night.
6. Homework production should be part of the student's overall evaluation. However, no student should ever fail a course on the basis of homework alone. Opportunities to make up homework should be offered to every student.
7. Homework of a reasonable nature may be given over weekends, holidays, vacations and other non-school time.
8. Homework should not create a financial burden on the family. Furthermore, equity of access to technology needs to be considered when assigning and evaluating homework.

The Board of Education believes that family support in students' homework is essential to making homework an integral part of the educational program. Families are expected to encourage and monitor homework assignments and, to the extent possible, provide conditions that are conducive to successful completion. Students should, however, complete their own homework assignments. Completing assignments for students does not help them but rather denies them valuable opportunities to prepare for learning, practice skills and deepen understanding of concepts.

The district shall also make every effort to provide time and spaces during the school day where students can complete their homework and access homework help.

The Superintendent is charged with the development of administrative regulations.

1st Reading: May 18, 2016

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