

## Homework

Homework is a constructive tool in the teaching/learning process when geared to the needs and abilities of students. Purposeful assignments enhance student achievement and develop academic behaviors necessary for school success. As an extension of the classroom, homework must be planned and organized; must be viewed as purposeful to the students and must be evaluated and returned to students in a timely manner.

### I. Assignment of Homework

- A. Work may be assigned to be completed outside of the student's school day for a number of reasons:
  - 1. Practice-to help students to master specific skills, which have been presented in class;
  - 2. Preparation-to help students gain the maximum benefits from future lessons;
  - 3. Extension-to provide students with opportunities to transfer specific skills or concepts to new situations;
  - 4. Creativity-to require students to integrate many skills and concepts in order to produce original responses; and
  - 5. Finish work-to complete work for which time was provided during the school day.
- B. Work designed to be completed outside the student's school day should be meaningful, motivating, engaging, consistent with and relative to the subject taught, and reviewed by the assigning teacher.
- C. The work assigned shall be of a reasonable amount:
  - 1. The amount should not be a burden to the student's taking part in normal student and family activities;
  - 2. The amount of work assigned should take into account other teachers' assignments so that the total assigned is reasonable for the student. The staff at each building will make every attempt to coordinate assignments; and
  - 3. The amount of work assigned should take into account the age of the student.
- D. Teachers will communicate homework guidelines and expectations to parents as a part of general communications related to classroom procedures.
- E. The principal will be responsible to clarify the nature and use of homework assignments to supplement, support and/or improve school achievement.

### II. Guidelines for assigning homework

- A. The frequency and duration of mandatory assignments should be:

1. In grades K to 3, students should not be required to complete homework assignments. Encouragement should be provided to engage in family home learning activities such as reading to and with their child, outside play, puzzles and games, etc.;
  2. In grades 4 to 5, homework assignments two (2) to four (4) assignments a week, each lasting not more than fifteen (15) to forty-five (45) minutes, will take into account the student's developmental age, learning goals and program of studies;
  3. Grades 6 to 8 - three (3) to five (5) assignments a week, each lasting forty-five (45) to seventy-five (75) minutes;
  4. Grades 9 to 12 -- three (3) to five (5) assignments a week, each lasting seventy-five (75) to one hundred twenty (120) minutes; and
  5. Students enrolled in special K-12 programs, including language immersion, Highly Capable, Honors, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and College in the High School may have additional assignments in accordance with program goals and requirements.
- B. Teachers should state clearly:
1. The classroom expectations regarding homework to students and parents;
  2. How the assignment is related to the grade level academic standards and learning target(s) under study;
  3. The purpose of the assignment;
  4. How the assignment might best be carried out; and
  5. What the student needs to do to demonstrate that the assignment has been completed (Success Criteria).
- C. Teachers are expected to provide feedback (oral or written) on assigned homework and return to students in a timely manner. Homework exclusive of completion of classroom learning activities may not represent more than 10% of the student's grade.
- D. Complex and comprehensive assignments should be in writing.

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VPS