

Research-Based Homework Guidelines

Research provides strong evidence that, when used appropriately, homework benefits student achievement. To make sure that homework is appropriate, teachers should follow these guidelines:

- Assign purposeful homework. Legitimate purposes for homework include introducing new content, practicing a skill or process that students can do independently but not fluently, elaborating on information that has been addressed in class to deepen students' knowledge, and providing opportunities for students to explore topics of their own interest.
- Design homework to maximize the chances that students will complete it. For example, ensure that homework is at the appropriate level of difficulty. Students should be able to complete homework assignments independently with relatively high success rates, but they should still find the assignments challenging enough to be interesting.
- Involve parents in appropriate ways.
- Carefully monitor the amount of homework assigned so that it is appropriate to students' age levels and does not take too much time away from other home activities.

“The Case For and Against Homework,”

Robert J. Marzano and Debra J. Pickering

MINDS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

WCSA

Many thanks to our Homework Committee Members

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**Williamson Central
School District**

**Homework Guidelines
For Teachers, Students
and Parents**

- ◆ Purposeful
- ◆ Flexible
- ◆ Responsible
- ◆ Consistent

Teachers should...

Purposeful:

- Provide resource/tool to use for reference on daily assignments and/or before assessments
- Use homework to inform instruction/progress, and enhance class discussion
- Align homework to standards, content and assessments, allowing for real-life application
- Use homework to improve student performance
- Align homework to students' abilities

Flexible:

- Provide window and/or have options for completion (i.e give assignments at the beginning of the week or give several days to complete)
- Find other ways to meet student needs if student tries, but can't complete
- Provide respectful deadlines that take into account students' entire workload and their timeline for completion

Responsible

- Be sure students have all the information/tools they need to complete homework independently
- Clearly explain assignment and provide examples/models when applicable so that students can get help when needed
- Provide timely grading and feedback.
- Help students to build good homework and study habits
- Articulate the purpose to students
- Keep length minimal for achieving purpose

Consistent:

- Be as consistent/similar as possible across the same course, grade level and content area
- Provide vertically appropriate assignments taking into account complexity and length.
- Communicate to parents and students regarding homework length and expectations
- Be aware of other class work/homework

Students should...

Purposeful:

- Understand and articulate the importance of the assignment
- Understand that homework improves understanding and application of concepts
- Understand that homework will improve success on assessments

Flexible:

- Seek support during SH, lunch and 10th period
- Use time management skills to complete homework
- Self-advocate when struggling or having difficulty completing assignment



Responsible:

- Set aside a structured place and time
- Attempt to do homework and persevere when struggling
- Consistently record assignments
- Communicate with teacher if struggling with assignment
- Form study groups
- Read, review and learn from teacher feedback
- Take initiative to use classroom notes and outside sources to complete homework
- Stay apprised of grades and use resources like Schooltool when available.
- Understand that homework completion will help them understand content and improve assessment performance

Consistent:

- Develop effective and consistent homework practices that allow for schedule changes (sports, job, etc.)

Parents should...

Purposeful:

- Ask questions (to teacher and child)
- Be an advocate
- Make connections to daily experiences

Flexible:

- Designate a place, time, and routine for homework
- Provide support as needed
- Communicate with teachers and child

Responsible:

- Be supportive and positive
- Foster independence
- Review and discuss teacher feedback
- Check assignments and SAB as needed
- Communicate with teachers and child

Consistent:

- Frequently check parent portal on Schooltool
- Maintain expectations
- Encourage progress

