

# **Freeburg Elementary School Homework Policy**

## **Grades 5-8**

### **Purpose of Homework**

There are several purposes for homework. At Freeburg Elementary School, homework is used to help students understand and review the work that has been covered in class, to see whether students understand the lesson, and to help students learn how to find and use more information on a subject. Homework can also serve as a communication link between school and home that shows what children are studying.

Schools in which homework is routinely assigned and graded tend to have higher achieving students. Homework should be necessary and useful, appropriate to the ability and maturity level of students, well explained and motivational, and clearly understood by students and parents. Homework should be tied to the current subject matter, assigned in amounts and levels of difficulty which students can complete successfully, and should be checked quickly, with feedback to students.

Freeburg Elementary School is eager to provide the best possible educational opportunities for all our students. These include physical facilities, professional and supportive staff, learning materials and other resources. Only about seven hours per day of a pupil's time is under the control of the schools. Therefore, parents and the public share the responsibility for educating children in all aspects of life. Homework, along with sports, special programs, and other activities is an important link in a total educational program.

### **Definition of Homework**

Homework is defined as tasks assigned to students by school teachers that are intended to be carried out during non-school hours if not completed during class time. Generally speaking, these assignments are routine in nature. For the purposes of this policy, homework does not include long-term projects, research papers, tests, etc.

### **Responsibility of the Student**

It is the responsibility of the student to:

- A. Keep track of all homework and other assignments and their due dates
- B. Clarify with the teacher any instructions not understood.
- C. Turn in homework on the due date.
- D. Complete homework in proper form, clearly identified with name and class, legibly written or typed, and grammatically correct.
- E. Arrange a proper study area, either at home or in school, and manage time to accomplish homework assignments.
- F. Establish a regular weekly study schedule that is relatively free from distraction (television, telephone calls, etc.)
- G. For preplanned absences (family vacations, school activities, sports, etc.) a Planned Absence Form needs to be filled out prior to the absence.

## **Responsibility of the Parent**

It is the responsibility of the parent to:

- A. Make homework a daily activity.
- B. Assume your student will have studying to do every night.
- C. Set up a comfortable location for doing homework. This does not have to be a “special” room, but should have good lighting and be free of distractions. Allow your student(s) to study in the way each of them learns best.
- D. Make sure your student has the necessary supplies.
- E. Work with your student’s outside activity schedule and preferences when setting up a regular homework time.
- F. Help your student get organized.
- G. Ensure that your student knows each teacher’s homework policy.
- H. Show interest in your student’s schoolwork and discuss what your student is learning.
- I. Watch for signs of failure or frustration.
- J. Discuss with your student and then, if necessary, contact the teacher to clear up any misunderstandings, troubleshoot problems, discuss time management and be informed about your student’s learning progress.
- K. Check progress on homework through **TeacherEase**.
- L. Coordinate homework efforts with the teacher in special cases.

## **Responsibility of the Teacher**

It is the responsibility of the teacher to:

- A. State clearly the purpose of the assignment.
- B. Explain how the assignment is related to the topic under study.
- C. Review, discuss and return, if collected, homework in a timely manner.
- D. Whenever possible, communicate and coordinate assignments so that students do not receive an overload of homework.
- E. Explain homework assignments to the students prior to the assignment. Teachers shall communicate homework assignments in at least one of the following ways: send a packet home, write assignment on the board, require students to record it, and/or make available through emails, websites or hotlines. The use of a variety of strategies is encouraged.
- F. Ensure that the child has the skills to complete the homework assignment by providing demonstration of skills during guided practice in the classroom.
- G. Explain how the assignment might best be carried out.
- H. Explain what the student needs to do to demonstrate the assignment has been completed.
- I. Provide specific written explanation of long-range assignments so that the requirements and expectations are clearly understood by the students and their parents.
- J. Avoid routine assignments over holiday and vacation time.
- K. Provide feedback in a timely manner.
- L. Use results of homework to plan future instructional activities.
- M. Include homework as part of the student’s overall grade.

N. Students will be referred to the office after they have failed to turn in multiple homework assignments and the parents have been notified.

### **Responsibility of the Administrator**

It is the responsibility of the administrator to:

- A. Communicate the school's homework policy to parents.
- B. Monitor the implementation of the policy.
- C. Coordinate the scheduling of homework among different subjects, if needed.
- D. Serve as mediator, should the need arise.

### **Late Work Policy**

Homework is defined as tasks assigned to students by school teachers that are intended to be carried out during non-school hours if not completed during class time. Generally speaking, these assignments are routine in nature. For the purposes of this policy, homework does not include long-term projects, research papers, tests, etc.

Students are expected to turn work in on time. Students who turn in late assignments may receive any of the following based upon individual teacher discretion, grade level policy, or consistency of missed homework:

- Partial credit
- no credit
- missed reward activity
- after school detention
- lunch in the office
- exclusion from after school activities

If you have questions about this policy, please contact the teacher or you may call me at (539-3188 ext. 211).

Mrs. Tomi Diefenbach  
Superintendent