

HOMEWORK POLICY

Homework provides opportunities for developing good study habits, providing for individual differences and abilities, and encouraging self-initiative on the part of the student.

Teachers are cautioned to avoid overloading students with excessively lengthy homework assignments or with overly brief and empty assignments. A teacher issuing a homework assignment should take into account the prevailing conditions that affect successful completion: the student's health, home environment, non-school responsibilities, assignment deadlines for other teachers, and special observances and events related to the academic calendar. Planning homework assignments should be given as much care as the planning of any other aspect of a lesson. An assignment important enough to be done must be considered worthy of teacher evaluation.

Homework is defined as:

- Assignments that are a properly planned part of the curriculum extending and reinforcing the learning experience of the school.
- Assignments that help children learn by providing practice in the mastery of skills.
- Experience in data gathering and integration of knowledge
- An opportunity to remediate learning problems.
- Assignments that help develop the student's sense of responsibility by providing an opportunity for the exercise of independent work and judgment.

Homework shall be assigned according to these guidelines:

1. The number, frequency, and degree of difficulty of homework assignments should be based on the abilities, activities, and needs of the student. However, the grade given for the homework is dependent on the student's performance.
2. Weekends and holiday periods are to be free of homework. Weekend and holiday periods can be utilized when completing long-range assignments. A long-range assignment is defined as an assignment that students have five (5) or more school days to complete.
3. No single homework assignment should exceed 20 minutes per class at the secondary level. AP courses may, at the discretion of the teacher, exceed 20 minutes based on the scope and sequence of the course.
4. Students in grades 1-12 will only be assigned homework four (4) nights per week.
5. Students in grades 1-5 shall have no more than twenty (20) minutes of homework a night. This does not include independent reading.
6. Students in Kindergarten should be assigned no more than (10) minutes of homework not to exceed three (3) nights per week. Teachers are encouraged to focus primarily on reading and keeping assignments simple and engaging.
7. As a valid educational tool, homework should be clearly assigned and its product carefully and promptly checked and reviewed in class with students.
8. Homework may not be assigned for punitive reasons.
9. Regulate the distribution of homework and test schedules to avoid simultaneous or excessive demands of the students.
10. "Homework grades" refers to completion or effort toward completion of the homework assigned, not a numerical grade assigned to the homework. The weighted percentage for homework when calculating a child's quarterly average will be determined by the criteria outlined in Board of Education Policy 5132.

Homework Policy (Continued)

11. Students who are absent from school for a full day the day an assignment is given will have two days for each day out to make up all homework without penalty if the absence was an excused absence and one day to make up all homework without penalty if it was an unexcused absence (lessons, appointments during periods and trips do not constitute absence – students must get the assigned homework that day from a classmate, district approved student learning management system or the teacher).
12. If a student was present the day an assignment was given, but is absent on subsequent days, that assignment should be turned in on the first day the student returns to school.
13. Each department at the Middle School/High School must establish criteria for what type of assignments will be defined as homework.
14. Each department at the high school and middle level must establish a Departmental Homework Policy adhering to #1-6 above. This policy must be posted on the district website under the appropriate department, handed out, reviewed with all students in the first week of school, distributed, and discussed at Back-to-School Nights.

The Board of Education believes that parental involvement in students' homework is essential to making homework an integral part of the educational program. Parents are expected to encourage and monitor homework assignments and, to the extent possible, provide conditions that are conducive to their successful completion.

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