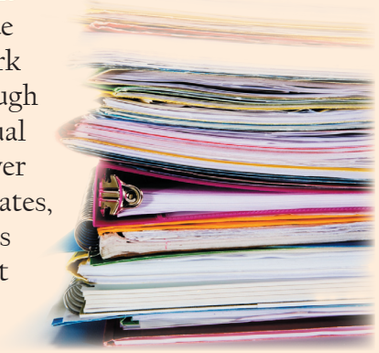
"10 - Minute Rule"



The grade level of a student should serve as a general guide to the amount of homework assigned each night. Although time may vary for an individual student who works at a slower or faster pace than classmates, research and best practices suggest that the total amount of homework assigned to an individual student each night should generally follow the "10-Minute Rule."

This rule conveys to students and to parents the expectation that homework assignments combined should last about 10 minutes multiplied by the student's grade level.

Examples of how much homework to expect per night:

- First graders - 10 minutes
- Second graders - 20 minutes
- Eighth graders - 80 minutes

With students taking a number of Advanced Placement courses at the high school level, the total amount of homework may need to increase beyond the 120 minutes expected of most twelfth graders.

If you have questions or concerns about the amount of homework your child receives, please contact the teacher or principal.

Homework Websites



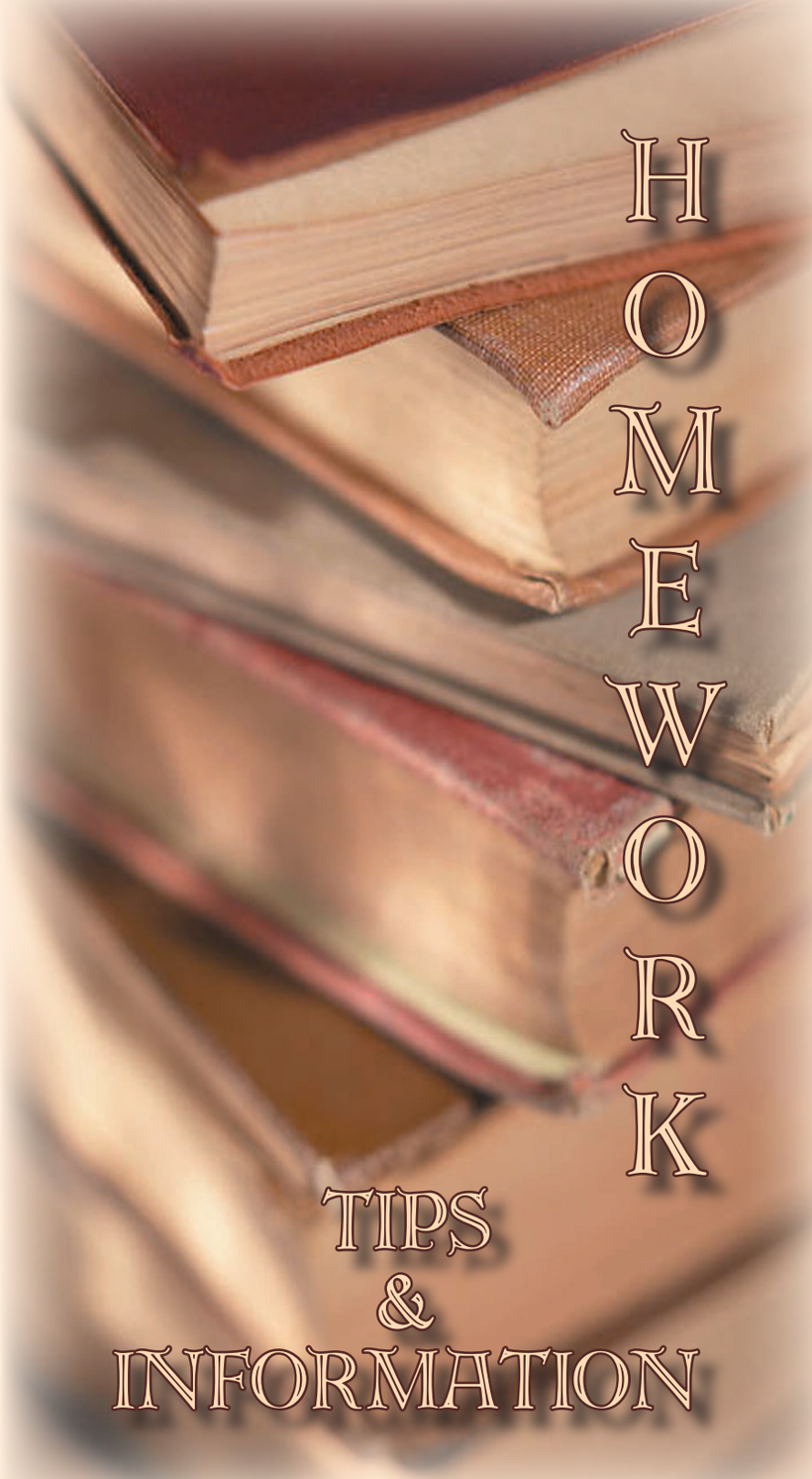
Fact Monster:
www.factmonster.com -
Divided up into subjects, skills, and reference sources.

Time for Kids:
www.timeforkids.com -
Organized into Grades K-1, 2-3, 4-6.

Ask Jeeves for Kids:
www.ajkids.com -
Large search engine. You can click on subject books for help in certain areas.

Smithsonian Education:
smithsonianeducation.org -
Divided into three sections: educators, families, and students. For families there are suggested readings and ways for parents to encourage learning; for students there are detailed topics to explore.

Davidson County Schools



HOMEWORK

TIPS & INFORMATION

Homework Policy Background

The Davidson County Schools Board of Education recognizes the importance of homework in supplementing classroom instruction and furthering the goals of the educational program. Because of this belief, a sixteen-member committee composed of teachers, administrators, parents, and students reviewed the research on effective homework practices. As a result of the committee's efforts, Homework Policy 6.16 was developed.

Homework should serve to help students learn the material for which they are responsible in school. It should also help prepare them to be lifelong learners by promoting the development of independent study skills. As such, teachers should assign homework for many reasons. These include

- review and practice of material covered in class,
- preparation for future classes,
- more in-depth exploration of subjects introduced in class, and
- application of previously mastered skills to new situations.



Tips for Parents

Listed below are ways that parents can participate meaningfully with homework:

- At the beginning of the school year, ask your child's teacher about homework rules or guidelines, including the types of work assigned and the purposes for the assignments.
- Homework is most beneficial when a regular time and place is established. The location can be almost any place in your home. Designate a quiet, comfortable study area, with good lighting and necessary school supplies. Set a specific time for your student to complete the homework assignments daily.
- You are encouraged to contact your child's teacher if you and your child do not understand an assignment or if your child is having a great deal of difficulty.
- We invite you to be involved and to communicate with your child's teacher regularly.
- You can serve as a good role model by letting your child know that you think homework is important and worthwhile.
- If your child does his/her homework while you are at work, you should ask to see your child's homework and discuss it with him/her by asking questions and providing support without actually completing the assignment for your child.
- You should develop a schedule that limits the amount of time your child spends watching television or playing video games. Often, these activities can interfere with the accomplishment of homework.

Tips for Teachers and Principals

In Davidson County Schools, we believe that effective homework can create a greater understanding between parents and teachers and can provide opportunities for increased communication. As a part of our commitment to our parents, the following are expectations for administrators and teachers:

- The student should understand the purpose of the assignment, and the assignment should reinforce the overall goals and objectives for the class. Homework should never be used as punishment.
- The teacher should provide clear and concise directions and grading expectations for the homework.
- The homework assignment should be meaningful and should not involve busy-work or meaningless activities such as word searches, coloring, or excessive amounts of similar problems.
- The student should be able to complete the homework with little or no outside assistance.
- Homework assignments should not require materials that are not readily accessible to the student.
- The teacher and student should develop a plan for completing missed assignments.