

## HOMWORK – MIDDLE SCHOOL

Homework is any schoolwork that is completed outside of school.

West Fargo Public Schools encourages all learners to read for a minimum of 20 – 30 minutes each night. Families need to balance the time needed to read for two-three hours each week; perhaps not reading on an evening when they have activities and then reading more on an evening when they do not. Research shows that if learners read 20 minutes each day, they have read 1.8 million words per year, forming new circuits and connections in the brain, important to the health and function of the brain.

If a learner is unable to finish a task in school or is absent from school and is fully prepared to complete it at home, educators may assign the work to be completed at home. If a learner does not complete the work at home in a timely manner, it will be reflected in their responsibility grade. If instruction is needed before the work can be completed successfully, the educator and the learner should work to find a time when it can be completed at school with guidance.

Educators may ask learners to gather information at home to facilitate a school to home connection or generate ideas for a project; however, this information would not impact their proficiency classroom incentives, or ability to do the work that is assigned in class. An example of this would include generating ideas for personal narratives.

Learners may practice their proficient skills at home, but there is not a requirement that they be returned to school in order to inform the learner's proficiency. Some examples of this would include working with vocabulary, word study skills, or mathematical concepts.

As learners advance through middle school, educators may ask learners to read text to prepare for a class discussion, complete research to inform a project, complete additional practice to work toward mastery, complete an informational study guide, practice important vocabulary, or write paragraphs, essays, and papers as homework.

Research shows that effort is more important than time, indicating a negative impact on learning when homework goes beyond two hours in a day at the high school level, and with even less time for younger learners.

Marzano, R. J., Pickering, D. J. (March 2007). The case for and against homework. *Educational Leadership*, 64(6), 74-79.

National Education Association. (2010). Research spotlight on homework. Retrieved March 2, 2010 from <http://www.nea.org/bare/print.html?content=/bare//16938.htm>.

Grode, D. (2010). Working together to resolve the homework problem. *Education Update*, 52(2), Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.

The statements in this document are intended to provide guidance for daily procedures and practices in order to maintain order, efficiency, and continuity amongst our schools.