

## 7010 - Homework Policy

### DEFINITION:

Homework is defined as meaningful and quality work assigned to students that is intended to be completed during non-instructional hours.

### PURPOSE:

#### Homework should:

- Reinforce principles, skills, concepts, and information taught in the classroom.
- Be meaningful and appropriate to the ability and instructional level of students.
- Support creative, logical, critical and analytical thinking.
- Foster self-discipline, self-motivation and the wise and orderly use of time.
- Be adequately explained by teachers and clearly understood by parents.

Note: Assignments that require going to the public library will include a weekend to accommodate working families.

### RESPONSIBILITIES:

#### Administrators shall:

- Communicate the board's policy in regards to homework and its appropriateness to parents, teacher and students.
- Provide teachers the time for professional development when utilizing homework as a strategy for learning.
- Monitor and support the teachers in the implementation of homework guidelines.
- Monitor the effective use of homework given by teachers.
- Ensure that homework is consistent with the school's educational goals.
- Facilitate communication between classroom and special area teachers concerning homework.
- Encourage teachers to use homework as a tool to reinforce learning.
- Be aware of the assignment of major projects and their impact on students' overall educational program.
- Support the need for balance among the many learning activities besides homework in students' lives.
- Facilitate the communication process between the school and home and help maintain the parent/school partnership as it relates to homework.

#### Teachers shall:

- Set clear standards and expectations for the quality of work based on the needs of students.
- Create an effective system for communicating homework guidelines for parents and students.
- Design quality homework, which is relevant to the curriculum and/or tied to mastery.
- Provide students the opportunity to ask questions to clarify assignments before leaving class.
- Provide specific written explanation, rubric or model, of long term assignments so that the requirements, expectations and timelines are clearly understood by the students.
- Provide students with a reasonable estimate of the amount of time necessary to complete each homework assignment.
- Allow for varied learning styles by including choices in types of assignments when possible.
- Establish a system for recording and reporting homework.
- Review homework and provide timely and appropriate feedback regarding the completion of assignments as a step toward mastery of standards.
- Coordinate projects so that all students have access to research and resource materials including textbooks and digital tools such as flash drives, electronic textbooks and websites.
- Assign homework that is academically challenging and developmentally appropriate to the student's level of competence.
- Collaborate between teachers at the secondary level regarding when homework would be assigned. There should be a balance of projects so they are not assigned at the same time.
- Ensure that students receive feedback on each assignment so that students comprehend their level of understanding of the learning.
- Modifications for ESE and ESOL students will be addressed through the IEP and ESOL students through their ESOL plan.
- Post all assignments and provide time for students to record them.

- Provide ways for parents to communicate with teachers about homework and ensure early notification to parents regarding homework problems and missing assignments.
- Assign long-term projects so that the completion time includes more than one weekend and is not limited to a school vacation period.

**Students shall:**

- Understand that homework is part of the course requirement.
- Copy all assignments into planner (grades 4–8), carefully recording due dates and important information.
- Ask questions to clarify homework assignments before leaving class.
- Set a time each day to do homework.
- Complete all assignments honestly in accordance with the teacher’s directions.
- Check work and, if possible, explain it to an adult.
- Maintain the highest quality work on homework assignments.
- Take home all necessary resources, such as packets, textbooks, notes, and study guides.
- Complete and submit homework assignments by the due date.
- Be responsible for getting assignments when absent from school.
- Be responsible for taking care of, and returning, any borrowed resource materials.

**Parents shall:**

- Remind students that homework is their responsibility.
- Promote a positive attitude toward homework as part of the learning process.
- Provide a suitable environment for homework. Monitor activities so that sufficient time is provided for homework.
- Check student planners regularly for grades 4<sup>th</sup> and up.
- Guide or assist in homework when unusual difficulties arise but never do the homework for their child.
- Understand and reinforce expectations for the quality of student work.
- Encourage students to ask their teacher(s) clarifying questions concerning their homework.
- Discourage plagiarism and any other dishonest practice in the completion of homework.
- Learn strategies and techniques for helping the student by taking advantage of opportunities such as parent education and/or homework clinics.
- Communicate often with the student and his or her teacher, giving feedback to the teacher when there is a homework concern.

**Daily Limits for Homework:** The following time guidelines should be noted when assigning homework each evening. Teachers must keep open communication and work in conjunction with team teachers so that students have a consistent amount of homework each evening. Homework should provide a meaningful follow up to a lesson.

<b>Daily Limits Spent on Homework</b>		
<b>Grade Level</b>	<b># of Minutes</b>	<b>Days of the Week</b>
<b>Kindergarten</b>	20	Monday – Thursday
<b>1<sup>st</sup> grade</b>	30	Monday - Thursday
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> grade</b>	40	Monday - Thursday
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> grade</b>	50	Monday - Thursday
<b>4<sup>th</sup> grade</b>	60	Monday - Thursday
<b>5<sup>th</sup> grade</b>	70	Monday - Friday
<b>6<sup>th</sup> grades</b>	80	Monday - Friday
<b>7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grades</b>	90	Monday - Friday
<b>9<sup>th</sup> and up</b>	>90	Monday - Friday

**Estimated Weekly Time spent by Subject Area for Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grades:**

<b>Estimated Weekly Time Spent by Subject Area K - 2nd</b>			
<b><u>K-2</u></b>	<b>K</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>2nd</b>
<b>ELA/Reading</b>	30 minutes	45 minutes	45 minutes
<b>Math</b>	30 minutes	45 minutes	45minutes
<b>Read-Alouds</b>	20 minutes	30 Minutes	40 minutes
<b>SS/Science</b>			30 minutes
<b>Total:</b>	1 hr. and 20 min	2 hours	2 hrs. and 40 min

<b>Estimated Weekly Time Spent by Subject Area 3<sup>rd</sup> and Up</b>					
<b><u>3rd and up</u></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>ELA</b>	45 minutes	60 minutes	60 minutes	60 Minutes	90 Minutes
<b>Math</b>	45 minutes	60 minutes	60 minutes	60 Minutes	90 Minutes
<b>Social Studies</b>	30 minutes	30 minutes	45 minutes	60 Minutes	60 Minutes
<b>Science</b>	30 minutes	30 minutes	60 minutes	60 Minutes	60 Minutes
<b>Reading</b>	45 minutes	45 minutes	60 minutes	60 Minutes	60 Minutes
<b>Electives</b>				45 Minutes	60 Minutes
<b>Total</b>	<u>3 hrs.15 min</u>	<u>3 hrs.45 min</u>	<u>4 hrs. 45 min</u>	<u>5 hrs.45 min.</u>	<u>6 hrs.30 min.</u>

**Suggestions for faculty consideration:**

- (1) Whenever possible in grades 4<sup>th</sup> and up, assign homework for the week ahead on Friday so that some students can take advantage of the reading assignments in all subjects during the weekend;
- (2) The Science Fair Project could increase homework time in grades 4<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> grades so adjustments may be made.
- (3) Homework should consist of meaningful projects and assignments in ELA, Core Knowledge Homework, Springboard ELA, Montessori assignments, repetition/practice in Math, Science Fair, Science and Social Studies assignments, MYON, and I-Ready.
- (4) Teachers should determine what students do not have access to computers at home and accommodate reading with literature from the Media Center.
- (5) Students who do not have online access at home should be able to access the media center and computer labs several mornings and afternoons per week.
- (6) Homework should not be assigned during holiday breaks. Exceptions may apply for advanced coursework.