

HOMEWORK

Homework is recognized and encouraged as an extremely valuable activity and as an appropriate extension of classroom instruction. Homework provides excellent 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. 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 shall be assigned according to these guidelines:

1. Homework should be a properly planned part of the curriculum extending and reinforcing the learning experience of the school.
2. Homework should help children learn by providing practice in the mastery of skills, experience in data gathering and integration of knowledge, and an opportunity to remediate learning problems.
3. Homework should help develop the student's sense of responsibility by providing an opportunity for the exercise of independent work and judgment.
4. 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.
5. As a valid educational tool, homework should be clearly assigned and its product carefully and promptly evaluated.

Home and School Cooperation

The Board of Education believes that parental involvement in students' homework is essential to making homework an integral part of the educational program. Close home supervision at the beginning of the school year can help students to develop proper skills, good study habits, and to ensure satisfactory growth in learning as supervision is reduced later. Parents/Guardians are expected to encourage and monitor homework assignments and, to the extent possible, provide conditions that are conducive to their successful completion. The parent/guardian should provide conditions that make it possible for students to work out good study schedules and to work independently.

Teachers and parents/guardians realize that there are many worthwhile interests and activities outside of the school that contribute to the well-being, learning, and maturation of students. Therefore, students should be helped to schedule their total program of activities so that there is sufficient time for rest and recreation as well as study.

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It is expected that parents/guardians will discuss homework assignments with school staff if there is a problem. Teachers will contact parents/guardians when homework assignments do not meet standards or are not turned in as required.

Role of Administration

The effectiveness and success of the homework policy shall be directly related to the level of involvement and commitment of everyone engaged in the educational process. Administration and supervision shall be critical factors.

Administrators at all levels will be involved in the implementation of the policy.

Note: Prior policy, Policy Manual, Homework (IKB-R) (1982), revised