Homework

Homework will be a regular part of each student’s school experience. Homework is defined as relevant tasks (or assignments) to be done outside of, or in conjunction with, regular class work.

The practice of homework in the early years (specifically, in pre-kindergarten through grade 2) should be child-sensitive, reflecting developmentally appropriate practices, which foster a shared learning experience between schools and families around themes and concepts. Families of young children should be encouraged to read to their children daily.

Homework should be designed to allow students to complete assignments within a reasonable amount of time. Time spent on homework should increase with the age and grade of the student. All students should be expected to read daily as part of their homework assignments.

The following times are recommended averages:

1. Students in pre-kindergarten through grade 2 - the frequency and duration of mandatory assignments should be a maximum of one to three assignments a week, each lasting no more than 15 minutes daily;
2. Students in grade 3 - 20-30 minutes daily;
3. Students in grades 4-5 - 30-50 minutes daily;
4. Students in grades 6-8 - 60-90 minutes daily;
5. Students in grades 9-12 - 60-120 minutes daily.

At the secondary level, communication among staff members and flexibility in scheduling homework are necessary to maintain realistic assignments that do not overload students.

Teachers are responsible for:

1. Communicating homework expectations to students;
2. Assigning, monitoring, correcting, acknowledging and returning student homework in a timely manner;
3. Conferring with parents regarding homework concerns; and
4. Assisting students and parents in developing good study habits and homework strategies.

Students are responsible for:

1. Understanding the expectations of the homework assignment(s) before leaving school;
2. Taking home all necessary materials to complete the assignment;
3. Developing a schedule for homework that is compatible with family and/or after school activities; and
4. Completing and returning homework on time.
Parents are responsible for:

1. Providing encouragement and support, and showing an interest in the student’s work;
2. When possible, assisting students to develop good study habits by providing a comfortable, well-lit area away from distractions;
3. Encouraging students to set a regular time for studying;
4. Evaluating student activities to be sure the student has sufficient study time; and
5. Conferring with teachers regarding homework concerns.

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