

Regulations Governing Homework Policy

Purpose of homework:

- To develop positive attitudes and work habits
- To practice skills that have been introduced and developed in class
- To relate understandings and skills developed at school to everyday life, to future academic work and to future careers
- To enrich the school program by pursuing activities that can be shared with classmates
- To read daily at an independent reading level
- To provide for independent study or projects

Teacher Guidelines for assigning homework:

- Homework is an extension of the instructional program and has a meaningful connection to the curriculum.
- Homework will be assigned with specific directions.
- Homework assignments will be differentiated to match the needs of students whose learning styles, primary languages, needs for enrichment or practice abilities, and home support systems vary. All students are expected to complete homework assignments.
- Independent reading can be assigned nightly.
- Mandatory homework will not be assigned over long vacation breaks (i.e. Thanksgiving, winter, spring breaks). However, long term assignments can be due five days after a holiday.
- Major assignments and tests will be coordinated with support/resource teachers at the elementary level, with teaching teams at the middle school level and with instructional leadership teams at the high school level.
- Students will be taught and encouraged to use organizers, weekly homework folders, etc., to keep track of assignments.
- The following timelines are to be used when assigning homework (excluding independent reading time)
 - 10 to 20 minutes for K-2
 - 30 to 60 minutes 3-5
 - 60 to 90 minutes 6-8
 - 45 minutes per course or 90-150 minutes for 9-12
- Homework is to be completed outside the instructional day.
- Teachers will work with parents to help students complete missed homework or other make up work when students return from absences.

Teacher Guidelines for assessing homework:

- Students will receive timely feedback on all homework, and feedback should reinforce student learning.
- In elementary grades, homework completion will be reflected in the effort grade on the report card, and not on the mastery grade on the report card. In middle and high school, homework grades will not be used as a punitive measure; course grades are expected to reflect content and skill mastery.
- Teachers will communicate with parents when a student consistently has difficulty completing or attempting homework assignments. Strategies will be developed to support the completion of homework.

School Guidelines for homework:

- Schools will develop common practices to ensure consistent homework expectations within grade levels and/or teams and departments.
- Homework expectations will be communicated to parents early in the year at conferences, Back to School Nights and through newsletters.
- Schools will provide parents with the following strategies for helping their children to develop effective study skills and to complete homework assignments:
 1. Provide space for doing homework and a specific time for study.
 2. Provide books and opportunities to read.
 3. Read to and with your child.
 4. Enrich the content being studied with family field trips, library visits, museum visits, internet searches etc.
 5. Encourage students to write down questions that need further clarification from the teacher.
 6. Maintain communication with teachers and counselors.