

SUBJECT: HOMEWORK

Homework is a practice that can enhance the development of skills and reinforce knowledge gained within the classroom when it is used effectively and appropriately. It is a natural extension of the curricular program because it is an integral component of instruction. It can also serve as a vital link between the school and family.

Guiding Principles

- Students benefit when staff in a grade level, program or department dialog about homework and are consistent in homework practices.
- Homework assignments provide maximum benefit when they are carefully planned and have direct meaning to students.
- Homework provides an opportunity to practice skills previously taught in class, prepare students for upcoming classes, and to extend learning.
- Specific timely feedback is essential to maximizing the benefits of homework. Effective feedback corrects misunderstanding, validates process, and highlights errors in thinking.
- Mastery of subject matter requires focused practice for a sustained period of time, often days or weeks.
- Learning is enhanced when students practice fewer skills but at a deeper level.
- Appropriate parental involvement facilitates homework completion.
- Homework establishes habits of study, concentration, and self-discipline which will serve students for the rest of their lives.
- Homework is most valuable when the amount and level is appropriate considering the age, grade level and capabilities of students.
- Homework is an integral part of the instructional program when it is aligned to the NYS Learning Standards and core curriculum.
- Homework assignments are driven by instructional decisions and are not to be used for behavior modification, either positive or negative.

Focus and Intensity of Homework

Teachers will provide specific information to students and parents regarding homework at the start of the year. At all levels modifications should be made to homework to allow students of all ability levels to remain within time frames.

SUBJECT: HOMEWORK*PreK*

At the prekindergarten level no homework shall be assigned. Parents will be encouraged to set aside time to read to their child and practice number identification with their child on a regular basis.

Kindergarten

Homework will be limited to an average of 10 minutes per day and should not exceed 15 minutes on any given day.

Parents will be encouraged to set aside time to read to their child and practice basic math concepts with their child on a regular basis.

Grade 1 and Grade 2

Homework will be limited to an average of 15 minutes per day and should not exceed 20 minutes on any given day.

Parents will be encouraged to set aside time to read to their child, listen to their child read, provide their child opportunities to write, and practice math concepts with their child on a regular basis.

Grade 3

Homework will be limited to an average of 25 minutes per day and should not exceed 30 minutes on any given day.

Parents will be encouraged to set aside time to read to their child, listen to their child read, provide their child opportunities to write, and practice math concepts with their child on a regular basis.

Grade 4

Homework will be limited to an average of 35 minutes per day and should not exceed 40 minutes on any given day.

Parents will be encouraged to set aside time to read to their child, listen to their child read, provide their child opportunities to write, and practice math concepts with their child on a regular basis.

SUBJECT: HOMEWORKGrade 5

Homework will be limited to an average of 45 minutes per day and should not exceed 50 minutes on any given day.

Parents will be encouraged to set aside time to read to their child, listen to their child read, provide their child opportunities to write, and practice math concepts with their child on a regular basis.

Grade 6

Homework will be limited to an average of 60 minutes per day and should not exceed 70 minutes on any given day.

Parents will be encouraged to create opportunities for their child to read, write and practice mathematical concepts on a regular basis.

Grade 7

Homework will be limited to an average of 70 minutes per day and should not exceed 80 minutes on any given day.

Parents will be encouraged to create opportunities for their child to read, write and practice mathematical concepts on a regular basis.

Grade 8

Homework will be limited to an average of 80 minutes per day and should not exceed 90 minutes on any given day.

Parents will be encouraged to create opportunities for their child to read, write and practice mathematical concepts on a regular basis.

Grades 9-12

Homework will be limited to an average of 90 minutes per day and should not exceed 120 minutes on any given day.

Parents will be encouraged to create opportunities for their child to read, write and practice mathematical concepts on a regular basis.

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The Types of Homework

Practice – Practice provides students with opportunities to apply new knowledge; or review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills. Examples include practicing for mastery, revising information about a current topic, reading for pleasure, and essay writing.

Preparation – Preparation provides opportunities for students to gain background information on a unit of study so they are better prepared for future lessons. Examples include background reading, reading specific text for class discussion, and collecting items.

Extension – Extension assignments encourage students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively. Examples include writing a book review, making or designing something, and using a computer to find information on the Internet.

Grading/Providing Feedback to Students

At all levels, students will receive specific constructive feedback on homework. Although checking off completion and grading are acceptable practices they do not alone meet the requirement to provide specific constructive feedback. Homework may be used in calculating overall averages, with homework counting no more than 15% of the overall average.

Consistency

Homework procedures will be consistent within a grade level, course or program. Principals working with grade level and subject area coordinators will be responsible for ensuring that a consistent approach is followed.

Level of Parent Participation in Homework

Parents are responsible for providing a place and time for their child to complete homework. Teachers will correspond with parents regarding the services of the community school program to assist families needing assistance providing supplies for the completion of homework.

Teachers, consistent with their peers in a grade level, course or program, will clearly communicate the appropriate level of parent involvement in the homework process. This will vary based on the age of the student and the specific nature of the assignment.

SUBJECT: HOMEWORK**Use of Technology in Completing Homework**

Students will not be expected to complete out of school work utilizing a computer or related device. The required use of a calculator is appropriate; however, students without access to a calculator will be provided with a calculator in the same manner that textbooks are assigned to the students.

Students may be assigned out of class work to be completed at school that requires computer access. In these cases the teacher will identify the resources available to the students and provide a sufficient amount of time to complete the assignment so that students can reasonably be expected to access school computers.

Family Projects

Family projects will be assigned sparingly. When family projects are assigned, there will be a focus on requiring only readily available, low, or no cost items. In cases where a specific item that is not universally available is required, it will be provided to the students. Students will receive feedback on the family projects, but they will not be graded.

Consequences for not Completing Homework

Parents will be immediately contacted by phone, e-mail, or student agenda when homework is not completed. Failure to complete homework has a natural consequence of impacting the students' understanding of the material and their grade. At the elementary level, students may be held from recess no more than one time per week. This can be used for homework completion. At all levels, students may be held between the first dismissal and the 3:30 bus run dismissal by their teacher to complete back homework assignments or for extra help if homework results indicate a need for additional assistance. Advance parental notification is required to have the student remain with the teacher during this time. Teachers are also strongly encouraged to contact parents when homework is completed regularly and when a student demonstrates significant improvement in completion and effort on homework.

Vacation Periods and Weekends

Homework may be given over weekends and vacations of shorter duration, although care should be taken to keep the length of the assignments reasonable.

Homework will not be assigned during the Thanksgiving, December Holiday, February, spring and summer vacations except as necessary in Advanced Placement, College Credit and Honors classes.

SUBJECT: HOMEWORK

Parents will be encouraged to create opportunities for their child to read, write and practice mathematical concepts on a regular basis during vacations.

Homework Room

A quiet area will be provided in each building, starting at grade 3, for the completion of homework between the first dismissal and the 3:30 bus run dismissal. Participation will be voluntary. Under no circumstances will students be assigned to homework room by staff. Parents may request that their child attend homework room, however student participation requires proper behavior. Each building will maintain supplies that students can access when participating in homework room. Access to instructional technology will be available to homework room participants.

Superintendent Approved – 8/8/07