

HOMEWORK

Homework is an assignment given at any level, for the purpose of improving student success. Homework may be assigned to:

- Prepare for upcoming instruction
- Practice or review of lessons taught
- Extend or apply concepts and skills taught in the classroom
- Develop study habits and promote independent learning

Homework is a valid, desirable and expected extension of classroom learning under the following conditions:

- Learning objectives are clear so that students know and can apply the purpose of the homework
- The homework is within the capabilities of the student
- The student has adequate resources and materials with which to complete the assignment
- The homework provides an opportunity for timely, developmental feedback to the learner
- The learning objective is essential to the practice or extension of needed skills

Use of Homework for Grading

At the Federal, State and District level there is an expectation that student performance be measured and reported on the basis of clear curriculum content related to specific standards and benchmarks. To this end, homework is a useful instructional strategy for improving student success as well as an important source of information for teachers as they personalize the learning experience. As such it is important that students complete the homework and receive timely and effective feedback from teachers. Balancing the importance of the work with the need for accurate measurement, homework related to practice, preparation, review and extension should have no more than a 10% impact on the cumulative grade.

Responsibilities

A. Teacher:

1. Know the purpose of each homework assignment and how it relates to specific standards and benchmarks.
2. Clearly communicate to the student the purpose, directions and expectations for all homework assignments.
3. Provide timely and appropriate feedback to students and parents using strategies that:
 - Assists the student in improving his/her work.
 - Is positive, descriptive and specific.
4. Plan the homework so it can be accomplished by the student independent of direct support from others.
5. Communicate criteria for quality to students in advance of the assignment.
6. Post all assignments and provide time for students to record them.
7. Provide appropriate and timely responses or feedback to all homework assignments.
8. Utilize discretion when assigning homework during vacation periods, legal and religious holidays and during state mandated testing.
9. Any extra credit will be directly related to district standards and promote student understanding of the curriculum.
10. Include practice, preparation and extension homework as no more than 10% of a cumulative grade.
11. Set consistent grading expectations across multiple sections of the same course.

B. Student:

There is strong evidence that students who complete appropriate homework assignments will demonstrate significant improvement in academic achievement. Therefore, students have a responsibility to develop the discipline and study skills to complete homework on a regular basis. Students must:

1. Have a system for recording homework assignments on a daily basis.
2. Have a clear understanding of the homework assignment before leaving school.
3. Request clarification from their teacher(s) if expectations are not clear.
4. Bring necessary materials home to complete the assigned tasks.
5. Set aside an appropriate amount of time daily to complete the assigned tasks.
6. Turn in homework assignments when requested.

C. Parent:

1. Provide time, place and materials for homework completion.
2. Set an expectation for homework to be completed.
3. Provide supervision to ensure successful completion of homework, but do not complete the assignment for the child.
4. Inform the teacher about homework questions or concerns.
5. Be aware of long-term assignments and assist the child in learning to budget time accordingly.

D. Building Administrator:

1. Ensure that homework relates to specific standards and benchmarks.
2. Annually review the homework policy and guidelines with teachers, parents and students through meetings, i.e. Open House, PIN, professional staff, parent and student handbooks and the school website.
3. Regularly review homework practices and procedures for consistent implementation across grade levels.

E. District Administrator:

1. Provide for a periodic, systematic review of the district philosophy and guidelines.
2. Provide relevant research and review of literature on homework issues and trends.
3. Provide support for the practices and procedures adopted by the district.
4. Ensure communication of the homework policy through district and school websites and student, parent and staff handbooks.

* Definition: Summative – Intended to examine student success in learning a new unit or a large block of material after instruction has been completed, i.e. essays, special projects, etc.