

HOMEWORK

Homework will be considered a necessary part of the learning process and a legitimate demand on the non-class time of students. Studies show that the amount of time that students spend learning a skill directly affects their ability to master it. Generally, homework should provide sufficient practice time to master the subject matter of the course. Homework assignments should be an extension of clearly defined school activities and should be appropriate to the age, ability and independent level of students. Teachers should assign meaningful homework which fosters lesson enrichment, application, review, and the practice of skills which have been previously taught and learned. Homework should also provide an opportunity for open-ended individual activities encompassing a variety of levels for suitable response and a variety of activities and products.

The primary purposes of homework are to reinforce skills and/or content being taught in class, to allow students to do independent research, and to pursue projects which do not lend themselves to a classroom setting.

Effective homework assignments should also develop initiative, responsibility, and self-direction; build independent study skills; teach budgeting of study time; promote parents' understanding of educational programs; build confidence by ensuring successful learning experiences and familiarity with materials and procedures; and encourage innovation and creativity through open-ended, individualized assignments.

The following limitations should be observed:

1. Homework should not interfere with the proper development of a child's health;
2. Homework should not interfere with the child's assumption of reasonable responsibilities within the home; and
3. Homework should not take so much of the child's time that he/she is denied opportunities to engage in other activities of her/his own choosing.

It should be noted that in all cases, any individual Education Plan requirements and the special, individual needs of all students supersede the guidelines of this policy.

Note: Prior Policy 4730, revised