

*Stephen J. Griffin, Principal*

## **Homework Policy**

### **Goals for Homework**

- To reinforce classroom instruction
- To develop good work habits, responsibility, self-direction, and organizational skills
- To extend and enrich curricula
- To assess independent work
- To provide parents with an opportunity to become informed about and involved in the child's learning

### **Time Allotments**

The time allotted to homework should increase gradually from grade to grade. The time limits are guidelines that should remain flexible. Individual differences among children may be taken into consideration by parents and teachers.

Grade Level	Suggested Average Per Day
K	Varies based on weekly assignments
1	10-15 minutes
2-3	30-45 minutes
4-5	60-90 minutes

\*Teachers require up to 30 minutes of reading time for kindergarten and first grade and a minimum of 30 minutes of reading for second through fifth grades. Reading together with or by an adult may be included in the time.

### **Types of Homework Assignments**

Homework assignments will be consistent in most things, such as mathematics, spelling and reading. Other assignments will vary. There are several types of homework assignments you may expect to see over the course of a year:

#### **Practice Homework**

Practice homework helps students master skills and reinforce in-class learning. Learning spelling words and completing math worksheets are examples of this type of homework.

#### **Preparation Homework**

Preparation assignments prepare students for an upcoming lesson or quiz. Reading a chapter in preparation for discussion, pretests, and surveys are examples of preparation homework.

#### **Extension Homework**

Extension homework helps students take what they learn in class and connect it with real life. It requires students to transfer specific skills and concepts to new situations. Journal writing and conducting experiments at home are examples of extension homework.

## **Creative Homework**

Creative homework helps students integrate multiple concepts and promotes the development of critical thinking and problem solving skills. This type of homework often takes the form of open-ended questions and long term projects that allow students a choice.

## **Vacation Homework Guidelines**

If your child will miss school for a significant amount of time, please let the teacher know before you leave. However, please be aware that teachers cannot accommodate requests for homework in advance. Missed homework will need to be made up upon return.

## **Responsibilities of Parents**

- Provide a study area that is quiet, comfortable and free from disturbances.
- Set rules (when, where, how) for your child.
- Make available resource materials such as reference books, magazines, newspapers, and a dictionary.
- Assist the student with drill, such as learning how to spell.
- Check the finished product for neatness and legibility.
- Consider homework as non-negotiable (extracurricular activities should not interfere with timely completion of homework).
- Encourage reading for pleasure.
- Show confidence in your child's ability; never do your child's homework for him/her.
- Hold your child accountable for getting homework to and from school.
- Let the teacher know if your child is experiencing difficulty with the homework.

## **Responsibilities of Students**

- Know homework assignments before leaving school.
- Take homework assignments and all necessary supplies home.
- Jot down a homework buddy's phone number to use if a day is missed or if there are questions.
- Spend the necessary time on homework each evening.
- Know that a best effort is demonstrating pride in homework.
- Seek help from parents only when needed.
- Submit finished homework to the teacher, neatly done and on time.

## **Responsibilities of Teachers**

- Ensure homework assignments leave school with clear expectations.
- Share individual classroom homework expectations at Curriculum Night and in the first or second newsletter that is sent home.
- Plan homework that is meaningful and relates to specific instructional purposes.
- Make homework as interesting as possible.
- Plan homework tasks that are appropriate to students' ability levels.
- Give parents specific suggestions on how to help their children with homework.
- Give children a sufficient amount of homework as to meet the time guidelines for your grade.
- Check homework daily or as often as appropriate (for example, a long-term project would be checked on or around its due date).
- Provide students with feedback on their progress, or with comments that are specific to the assignments. This can occur as direct written comments on the assignments, as part of in-class discussions or through connections made with in-class assignments