

## **CHAPTER 6**

### **6.5 Homework (Amended 09/25/07)**

#### **6.5.1 Definition**

Homework is defined as out-of-class tasks assigned to students as an extension or elaboration of classroom work. Homework may provide practice, preparation, extension, and creativity. Practice assignments reinforce newly acquired skills. For example, students who have just learned a new method of solving a mathematical problem should be given sample problems to complete on their own. Preparation assignments help students get ready for activities that will occur in the classroom. Students may, for example, be required to do background research on a topic to be discussed later in class. Extension assignments are frequently long-term continuing projects that parallel class work. They are used to transfer skills or concepts to new situations. Creative homework activities integrate many skills toward the production of a response or product.

#### **6.5.2 Purpose**

Homework contributes toward building responsibility, self-discipline and lifelong learning habits. Homework should include relevant, challenging and meaningful assignments that reinforce classroom learning objectives.

#### **6.5.3 Time**

Actual time required to complete assignments will vary with each student's study habits, academic skills, and course load. On average homework should total 10 times the grade of the student. E.g. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade = 30 minutes. If your child is spending an inordinate amount of time doing homework, you should contact your child's teachers.

#### **6.5.4 Absence**

Regardless of the reason for an absence, all students shall be given the opportunity to make up missed work due to school absences. Students shall have two days to make up missed work. Any exemption to this timeframe for extenuating circumstances must be approved by the principal and classroom teacher. All teachers shall make themselves available upon a request by a student and/or parent to answer questions a student might have concerning instruction that was missed while absent from class.

#### **6.5.5 Responsibilities of Teachers**

- Communicate homework expectations to students and parents at the beginning of the school year
- Determine that students have prerequisite skills to accomplish homework assignments.
- Assign relevant, challenging and meaningful homework that reinforces classroom learning
- Clearly explain the homework and make sure students understand the purpose. Tie assignments to the present.

- Vary assignments. Create assignments that challenge students to think and integrate.
- Assign an appropriate amount of homework while maintaining an awareness of student overall course load.
- Provide constructive feedback in a timely manner.
- Never give homework as punishment.
- Involve parents and contact them if a pattern of late or incomplete homework develops.
- Provide additional support opportunities for students struggling with homework concepts.
- Give praise and motivate.

### **6.5.6 Responsibilities of Parents**

- Set a regular, uninterrupted time each day for homework and study.
- Establish a quiet, well-lit study space stocked with necessary supplies.
- Monitor student's organization and daily list of assignments in their agenda.
- Praise your child for efforts and for completing assignments.
- Talk to your child about difficulties with homework. Notify your child's teacher to resolve problems in a positive manner.
- Encourage your child to do the work independently, but be available for assistance.
- Consider doing some of your work, such as paying bills or writing letters, during your child's homework time.
- Contact teacher to stay well informed about your child's learning.

### **6.5.7 Responsibilities of Students**

- Write assignments in the student agenda and communicate these with parent/guardian.
- Be sure all assignments are clear; ask questions when necessary.
- Set aside a regular time for studying.
- Find a quiet, well-lit study area.
- Produce quality work.
- Make sure assignments are done according to the given instructions, completed and submitted on time.
- Contact teacher(s) concerning missed work due to absence immediately upon returning to school.
- Complete assigned homework given during absence as stated in 6.5.4.