

THE PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK

Homework is one of the many learning activities in which students engage; its purposes should be to:

- Extend learning and/or provide practice in applying concepts initially presented in the classroom.
- Provide opportunities for independent work and/or study.
- Strengthen concept attainment, skill development, and reinforcement.
- Develop initiative, responsibility, self-direction, and organizational skills.



Great Seneca Creek Elementary School Homework Policy 2009-2010

GUIDELINES / TEACHER RESPONSIBILITIES

- No assignment will be given that has not been clearly explained in the classroom.
- Pupils will fully understand when the assignment is due.
- Homework will grow from classroom tasks and projects or will focus on skill/strategy reinforcement.
- Assignments will be varied and require the use of a number of skills.
- Homework will be checked for its quality and completion. Homework will not be graded, unless the teacher has clearly stated so to the students.
- Homework will be included as a learning skill and will be marked as such on the student's quarterly report card.
- Where team teaching is utilized, assignments will be coordinated among grade level teachers to keep within the time allotments.
- Teachers will communicate to parents about missing or incomplete assignments as needed.
- Homework will not be assigned on designated religious holidays when students are absent because of religious observances.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- It is the student's responsibility to be aware of assignments and to seek further explanation if needed.
- Students will record assignments.
- The student will organize his/her time to work on assignments.
- The student will turn assignments in on time.
- The student's work will reflect high standards regarding quality and completeness.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

While the pupil should assume the major responsibility for completing homework assignments, parents are encouraged to take an active interest in the pupil's homework by doing the following:

- Provide a study area that is quiet, comfortable, and free from major disturbances.
- Provide a definite time for study or other home activities.
- Make available, if possible, such resource materials as reference books, magazines, newspaper, dictionary, and/or the public library.
- Monitor the child's daily and/or weekly assignment sheets/books and long-range assignments.
- Arrange with the school to secure assignments during a period of excused absence. Teachers are not responsible for providing homework for extended vacations or unexcused absences.
- Encourage the child to complete homework on their own as much as possible and assist only as needed.

TIME ALLOTMENTS

The time allotted to homework should increase gradually from grade to grade. Below are suggested time frames for homework:

Kindergarten	-	10-15 minutes per night
Grades 1 and 2	-	15-20 minutes per night
Grade 3	-	25-45 minutes per night
Grade 4 and 5	-	30-60 minutes per night

- Guidelines **do not** include basic math facts practice or the **15-20 minutes per night** that each child throughout all grade levels is expected to commit to reading, either independent or from read-alouds.
- These times are approximate. Individual student's pace may need to be taken into consideration. We request that problems/concerns be communicated directly to the classroom teacher.
- When enough time has been allowed in school for class work, and that work has not been completed, it may be assigned as homework, thereby exceeding the recommended daily time allotted to homework.
- Students who participate in enrichment programs may receive assignments beyond the time allotted, but not exceeding 15 minutes per subject area.