

Rachel Carson Elementary School

Homework Policy

Research studies have consistently shown that the amount of time devoted to learning is related to achievement in a subject. Homework, therefore, is important in a student's overall success in his/her academic program.

Homework should give the child a sense of satisfaction and achievement; it should be an enhancer to self-confidence and self-esteem. Students need to be taught skills such as time and work management to accomplish these objectives.

Making homework meaningful to the student requires cooperation and communication among the teachers, students, and parents. The teacher, through control of the teaching/learning situation, can best determine the nature and length of homework assignments.

THE PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK

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

1. Extend learning and/or provide practice in applying concepts initially presented in the classroom
2. Provide opportunities for independent work
3. Strengthen concept and skill development
4. Provide opportunities for enrichment
5. Develop initiative, responsibility, self-direction and organizational skills



GUIDELINES

Homework assignments must be carefully planned by the teacher in accordance with the following guiding principles:

1. The purpose of the assignment and its relation to what has been learned in the classroom will be clearly understood by the pupil.
2. Pupils will understand fully not only what to do, but also how to do it, and when it is due.
3. Homework will grow from classroom tasks and projects or will focus on skill/strategy reinforcement.
4. Assignments will be varied and require the use of a number of skills.

5. Every homework assignment will be accounted for (i.e., some papers will be self-checked, some teacher/instructional assistant checked, some shared with peers, etc.).
6. Where team teaching is utilized, assignments will be coordinated among teachers.
7. Teachers will provide students with an assignment folder/book to fully record daily and long-term assignments. When appropriate, parent signatures on homework assignment books will be requested.
8. Teachers will communicate regularly with parents to report incomplete homework assignments. Teachers will communicate about missing or incomplete assignments halfway through the grading period using an Interim Progress Report form.
9. Homework will not be assigned on designated religious holidays when students are absent because of religious observances.
10. Homework for practice is not part of the academic grade.
11. Homework assigned for practice will be reported in the Learning Skills part of the report card.
12. Teachers may grade homework that is assigned for students to show they have learned the skills or information. Teachers must inform students prior to an assignment if the homework is to be graded.

TIME ALLOTMENTS

The time allotted to homework should increase gradually from grade to grade. The following is a list of approximate daily time allotments (may vary according to the child):

Guidelines

- | | |
|------------|--------------------|
| Grades K-2 | - 10-30 minutes |
| Grades 3-4 | - 30-45 minutes |
| Grade 5 | - Up to 60 minutes |

Students should also read for 20 or more minutes per night, in addition to their homework assignments.

*These times are approximate. Individual student needs must be taken into consideration. We request that problems/concerns be communicated to the 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.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of assignments.
2. The student will organize his/her time to work on assignments.
3. The student will turn assignments in on time.
4. The student will have high standards regarding quality and completeness of work.

*Students will be assisted with the above requirements by their teachers.

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

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 the following:

1. Provide a study area that is quiet, comfortable and free from major disturbances.
2. Provide a definite time for study or other home activities.
3. Make available, if possible, such resource materials as reference books, magazines, newspapers and dictionary.
4. Assist pupils with mastery of specific skills (i.e., math facts).
5. Check the pupil's work for neatness and legibility. (Primary children should use pencils for written work.)
6. Arrange with the teacher for limited homework assignments when the child's physical condition necessitates it.
7. **Monitor your child's daily and/or weekly assignment sheets/books and long-range assignments.**
8. Arrange with the school to secure assignments during a period of absence.
9. Parents are permitted and encouraged to assist their child with homework. If a child's homework is consistently too difficult or exceeding the recommended time allotment, the child's teacher should be notified.
10. Ensure that your child places his/her completed homework in his/her homework folder and backpack as soon as it is completed.
11. Assist your child with obtaining a "study buddy" or classmate who he/she can call if homework assignments are unclear.

A carefully planned program for homework assignments is an effective means of increasing student learning. A well planned program of homework activities provides another opportunity for the home and school to work together.