

## DuFief Elementary School Homework Policy

### PHILOSOPHY:

Homework and long-term assignments should be meaningful to the student and relate directly to classroom activities, projects, and concerns. Homework reinforces skills and concepts taught in the classroom and provides students with an opportunity to establish good work and study skills. MCPS School Board policy requires homework, three to five times per week, as part of the school's total responsibility in ensuring that each child receives a thorough and systematic grounding in basic skills and in all areas of instruction.

### PURPOSE: Homework should:

1. Extend and reinforce classroom learning.
2. Strengthen and increase basic skills.
3. Stimulate and further interest.
4. Promote and encourage independent study skills.
5. Develop and enhance initiative, responsibility, and self-direction.
6. Inform and acquaint parents with work students do in school.

### TEACHER RESPONSIBILITIES: Teachers will:

1. Help students see how homework is related to classwork.
2. Make sure that the assignments, procedures for accomplishing them, and due dates are clear to students.
3. Inform students if homework is to be graded.
4. Ensure that the amount of homework is appropriate to students' needs and abilities and that the total homework from all the students' teachers is reasonable.
5. Completed homework assignments are to be reviewed by the teacher (or a designee) and appropriate instructional follow-up shall occur.
6. Homework should not be assigned on the night before designated religious holidays. Students who have been excused from school for religious observances shall have the opportunity to make up assignments. (*Designated Religious Holidays* are those indicated on the Board of Education adopted school calendar).

### TIME ALLOTMENTS:

- According to Montgomery County guidelines, children in elementary school must be assigned homework between 3 and 5 nights per week. Homework assignments are at the discretion of the individual classroom teacher.
- When assigning homework, most teachers have an expectation that the time required to complete the assignment will be reasonable given the developmental stage of the children in each grade.
- **Suggested time guidelines** for homework are:

Grade K	10 minutes
Grade 1	10 - 15 minutes
Grade 2	20 minutes
Grade 3	30 minutes
Grade 4	45 - 60 minutes
Grade 5	45 - 60 minutes

**PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES:**

While the child assumes the major responsibility for completion of homework and long-term assignments, parents will:

1. Encourage and expect their child to do his/her homework each night.
2. Check to see if homework is completed.
3. Make suggestions, give illustrations, and listen to their child.
4. Practice with their child when necessary.
5. Provide a definite time and an appropriate work place for their child to complete assignments.
6. Communicate with the teacher if their child is having difficulty completing or understanding assignments.
7. Inform the teacher when limited homework assignments may be necessary due to their child's health or other medical/family issues.

**Homework and or class work will not be given in advance for trips or vacations. It is the responsibility of the student to make up missed work upon return.**

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:** Students will:

1. Know what homework is assigned and when it is due.
2. Be organized and prepared with the necessary materials to complete homework assignments.
3. Complete and return homework on designated dates.
4. Review and proofread homework.
5. Seek help, as needed.
6. Get missed assignments upon their return to school.

**PROCEDURES FOR MAKING UP ASSIGNMENTS:**

1. Students will be responsible for inquiring about missed assignments from all classes.
2. Students will be given adequate time to make up assignments due to absence.
3. Usually, one or two additional days for each day of absence will be sufficient.
4. There is no need to contact the school for missed assignments due to illness.

**REASONABLE CONSEQUENCES FOR FAILURE TO DO HOMEWORK:**

We recognize that there may be occasional extenuating circumstances that prevent a student from completing assigned homework. If this occurs, a note from parents is requested. These situations are worked out individually between teacher and student. When a pattern of not completing homework begins to emerge, teachers may:

1. Conference with student.
2. Contact parents (email message, note, phone call)