

Germantown Elementary School

Homework Policy 2015 - 2016



Philosophy

We affirm the Montgomery County Board of Education's belief that homework complements classroom learning and is beneficial and important in a student's overall educational program. Research confirms that the amount of time devoted to learning is related to achievement in a subject. Further, homework provides an opportunity for students to develop personal responsibility and study skills, including good organization, self-reliance, and time management. Finally, homework is an important tool for informing parents about current areas of study and student working levels.

Purposes of Homework

The purpose/objectives of homework should be clearly communicated to students and parents and should be to:

- Provide background for upcoming lessons and units of study. (Previewing)
- Provide opportunities for concept and skill development. (Practice)
- Extend classroom learning and/or provide practice in applying concepts initially learned in the classroom. (Application)
- Provide opportunities for enrichment. (Enrichment)
- Provide opportunities to identify and to use resources, such as the library, the Internet, reference books, and other community resources.

Guidelines and Procedures

1. Homework assignments are to be directly related to instructional objectives and should account for differences among students.
2. Homework should be assigned three to five times a week on average, and the following time guidelines should be used in planning homework:
 - Grades K-1: up to 15 minutes per night
(+ 10 minutes of reading/being read to and 5 minutes of basic math fact practice in the 3rd and 4th marking periods)
 - Grades 2-3: up to 25 minutes per night
(+ 15 minutes of reading/being read to and 8 minutes of basic math fact practice)
 - Grades 4-5: up to 50 minutes per night
(+ 20 minutes of reading and 10 minutes of basic math fact practice)
3. Classroom policies and procedures for assigning, recording, and submitting homework will be clearly communicated to students and parents each September.
4. Due dates and directions for completing each homework assignment should be clearly communicated to students and parents.
5. Homework will not be assigned on designated religious holidays or when students will be absent due to religious observances.
6. Students may make up assignments missed due to excused absences. Teachers are not required to provide assignments in advance for absences of any type.
7. Teachers will solicit feedback from students and parents regarding the appropriateness of homework assignments.

Evaluation and Grading

Completed homework assignments will be reviewed and feedback will be provided to students. This feedback may include self-evaluation and/or tracking of progress, peer feedback, or teacher comments.

Homework may not be graded each day. As a result, homework will not be a factor in determining academic grades. Homework completion will be used to for learning skills feedback. When stated in advance, homework will be used to assess students' learning after they have had ample practice and feedback on identified skills or concepts. In these cases, homework may be used in determining both learning skills and academic grades.

Parents' Roles

To help children be successful with work at home, parents can:

- Create a place that is conducive to studying. Most children do best in quiet, well-lit environments.
- Set aside a specific time for homework each day. Family routines, including set homework times, have been linked to higher achievement.
- Make sure children have all the supplies they need in order to complete assignments.
- Be available if students have questions. Parents can support their children by looking over homework and giving suggestions, but should not do the homework for them.
- Support students in learning their basic facts (each day).
- Communicate regularly with teachers about expectations, student performance, and the levels of difficulty and/or clarity in homework assignments.
- Monitor assignment completion through the use of student assignment books or other established classroom procedures.

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN TO YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER BY 9/4/15

I/We have reviewed the GES Homework Policy with _____
Student's Name

Date

Parent's Signature

Student's Signature