

Instruction

Homework

Homework is an integral part of the instructional program and learning process which allows students to follow through on their personal commitment to academic work. It should be meaningful and help students develop constructive attitudes and sharpen useful skills. Homework assignments should be given to reinforce and augment the lessons taught in class and provide exercises in the development of responsibility and of good work and study habits. These assignments allow for research, individual projects and drill.

Basically, there are three types of homework:

1. Practice of Skills

Practice provides students with the opportunity to reinforce and master specific skills presented in class and to review content.

2. Preparation For Future Classes

Prepares students for the next class meeting, and may include reading, library research, or other information-gathering activities.

3. Extension of Classwork

Extension focuses on individual application, research, and study; takes students beyond work covered in class.

Guidelines for time required for homework at each level (elementary, middle, high school) will take into consideration the needs of the students. Teachers shall assign homework according to administrative regulations.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures.

Policy adopted: October 15, 2007

THOMASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Thomaston, Connecticut

Instruction

Homework/Make-up Work

Suggested Time Limits

These time values should be regarded as minimum standards of time for the assignment of homework. As guidelines for teachers, it is expected that professional judgment will be utilized in their application.

GRADE	TIME
K.....	Individual Basis
1.....	Individual Basis (Reinforcement Makeup)
2.....	15 min. (2x week) (review)
3.....	20 min. (3x week)
4.....	30 min. (4x week)
5.....	50 min. (total per day)
6.....	60 min. (total per day)
7.....	75 min. (total per day)
8.....	90 min. (total per day)
9-12.....	30 min. (per academic class period)

Homework should not exceed a maximum of two and one-half hours per evening in grades nine through twelve.

When students are enrolled in gifted, advanced level, or individual academic programs, these requirements may be increased. Parents and students will be notified of the additional requirements prior to selection of the program.

Student’s Responsibility

1. Students are to be responsible for finding out and making up work missed when absent.
2. Students are to understand the purpose and requirement of the assignment.
3. Students are to understand and record the assignments.
4. Students are to understand the means of evaluation.
5. Students are to understand that the content, structure and appearance of all written homework assignments are important elements in the grading process.

Instruction**Homework/Make-up Work** (continued)**Student's Responsibility** (continued)

6. Students are to understand the suggested time allotment.
7. Students are to budget time realistically.
8. Students are to assume responsibility for obtaining the proper resources and materials.
9. Students are to demonstrate integrity and not to give or receive so much help that the value of the homework will be destroyed.

Teacher's Responsibility

1. Teachers will explain to students at the beginning of the school year and subsequently, if necessary, the homework policy and how it will be carried out. Explanations will be given as to how homework will affect the overall grade in their respective classes.
2. If the homework is to have value, its purpose and relation to what has been learned in the classroom must be understood clearly by the student. Homework should supplement a well-planned lesson.
3. Students should understand not only what to do, but also how to do it. Assignments should be given orally and in written form with a specific due date.
4. The student's total daily homework load, out-of-school responsibilities, and home conditions should be considered by the teacher when deciding upon the length of any assignment and in evaluating an assignment.
5. Every homework assignment should be properly evaluated, recorded, and returned within as short a time as possible after its completion. The results of evaluation shall be reflected in the student's overall grade.
6. Teachers have the responsibility to communicate with parents of the children who are falling behind in completing homework assignments.
7. Consideration should be given students who may not have adequate time for homework preparation due to extenuating circumstances.

Instruction

Homework/Make-up Work (continued)

Parent's Responsibility

1. Parents should encourage a positive attitude toward school and express confidence in their child's ability to do work.
2. Parents should arrange for a quiet suitable place with adequate time for their child to work.
3. Parents should stress the importance and benefits of homework by:
 - a. Encouraging their child to complete homework assignments.
 - b. Helping their child learn how to schedule his/her time.
 - c. Letting their child know they are available to listen to, or ask questions about, material being studied.
4. Parents should recognize that homework cannot become their responsibility, and they should give their child the opportunity to take charge of this part of his/her learning.
5. Parents should contact the teacher at school with any questions or concerns regarding homework.

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