

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: HOMEWORK

ADOPTED: March 14, 1994

REVISED:

Farrell Area School District

130. HOMEWORK

1. Purpose

The Farrell Area School District believes homework is an essential component of each student's education and is an important factor in learning and achievement. For homework to be an effective part of the educational process, students, teachers, and parents must actively share the responsibility. The purposes for assigning homework shall be to:

1. Help students develop responsibility, independent work habits, time management skills, and study skills.
2. Reinforce new concepts and practice basic skills for increased retention.
3. Provide feedback to teachers for evaluating concept attainment and study skills.
4. Increase home-school communications so that parents are aware of curriculum and feel a part of their child's education.
5. Extend the time available for learning.
6. Provide opportunities for realistic application of information and skills.
7. Provide opportunities to utilize community resources.
8. Have students experience a sense of accomplishment and success, and thus provide motivation for continued learning.
9. Spark curiosity and creativity in students.

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2. Definition

Homework is defined as curriculum-related assignments planned or approved by teachers to be completed by students after regular school hours without immediate and direct teacher supervision. Work identified by the teacher as homework may be done during school hours, but only with permission from the teacher.

3. Guidelines

Types

Preparation: Assignments are aimed at preparing the student for the next lesson. Use of advanced organizers, chapter previews, or lesson outlines are methods of focusing the student's attention and reducing ambiguities concerning up-coming material.

Practice: Assignments are given to reinforce what has been presented in class. The amount of practice and the spacing of reviews must be considered so that maximum retention occurs.

Extension: Assignments are made to expand on previously learned skills or information. Understanding topics in greater detail and/or broadening concept generalizations are the primary goals when assigning this type of homework.

Creativity: Assignments are given to have students apply previously learned material in problem-solving endeavors (e.g. brainstorming, research, and experimentation).

The amount of homework assigned will be in accordance with Board policies and regulations developed by the staff.

4. Responsibility

Teacher

1. Communicate homework expectations to students and parents including the amount, types, impact on grades, and the difference between acceptable and unacceptable work.
2. Assignments will be relevant to the planned course objectives.
3. Each type of homework assignment shall be given to increase student interest, learning, and understanding.



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4. Teachers will assure that students understand the purpose, directions, due date, and what materials are needed for each assignment. Students will be given a reasonable time to ask questions.
5. Assignments will be based upon student abilities and educational needs. Allowances should be made for individual differences and situations when justified (e.g., the learning disabled student with dyslexia, the student with a cast on his writing hand, the student who works exceptionally slowly, etc.).
6. There will be coordination among teachers so that the cumulative amounts of homework do not become excessive. Student activities, special events and holidays will be given reasonable consideration when assigning homework.
7. HOMEWORK SHOULD NEVER BE USED FOR PUNISHMENT OR TO CONSUME TIME.
8. All assignments must be evaluated in a timely and comprehensive manner so as to provide feedback and reinforcement for students.
9. Homework shall play a part in the student's report card grade. How much a part will be determined by the individual teacher.
10. When homework problems arise, teachers will first discuss the matter with the student, then the parents, then the guidance counselor.

Students

1. Develop a system for recording and remembering all assignments. Students may need assistance from teachers and parents.
2. When any portion of an assignment is not understood, it is the student's responsibility to seek clarification from the teacher.
3. Learn to budget study time efficiently, especially when cumulative tests are announced or long-term projects are assigned.
4. Complete all assignments to the best of their ability in a neat and thorough fashion.

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5. Submit all assignments on time.
6. Complete a fair share of the work when assigned group projects.
7. Interact with parents about classroom topics and homework assignments.
8. Know and follow teacher instructions when making up assignments due to absence.
9. After homework has been checked and returned, students should review their work, correct mistakes if instructed, and ask for further explanation if needed.

Parents and/or Family Members

1. Help develop a positive attitude toward homework by showing an interest in the topics assigned and explaining the importance of homework.
2. Be a good role model around your child (e.g., read, write letters, etc.).
3. Provide an environment free of distractions and conducive for productive work.
4. Have adequate study materials available (i.e., pens, pencils, erasers, a sharpener, a ruler, an atlas, a dictionary, etc..).
5. Help with time management by setting a time for homework and assisting with planning.
6. Give assistance when needed which enables the child to understand the assignment or concepts presented, but do not encourage over-dependence.
7. Assure that the work is brought home, completed, and submitted by the student as instructed by the teacher.
8. Communicate with the teachers when any problems arise.

Administration

1. Communicate the philosophy and purpose of the district homework policy to teachers, parents, and students.

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2. Monitor homework procedures to see that teachers, parents and students are assuming their responsibilities as stated.
3. Present ideas, innovations, and research information to the staff on a regular basis regarding effective homework procedures.
4. Periodically evaluate the district homework policy.

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