

HOMework POLICY

Homework helps students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning, fostering good, lifelong learning and study habits, and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning.

Homework is an opportunity for parents to participate in their child's education. Parents, in partnership with teachers, should encourage their children to establish good homework patterns.

PRINCIPLES:

- Parents will be advised of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and a homework contract will be agreed upon.
- Students will benefit from completing homework regularly.
- Homework helps students to develop organisational and time management skills, self-discipline, skills in using out-of-school resources and personal responsibility for learning.
- Homework diaries will be used by some students as a means of regular communication between parents and teachers.
- Failure by students to complete homework on a regular basis will be followed up with parents.
- Teachers will set regular, meaningful homework tasks that are applicable to students' developmental stages of learning and mindful of students' commitment to personal pursuits, (e.g. swimming, dance, karate,)

TYPES of HOMEWORK:

Homework should:

- Be appropriate to the student's developmental stage of learning
- Be interesting, challenging, engaging, and where appropriate, open-ended
- Be balanced, acknowledging that at times students may be involved in a range of recreational, family and/or cultural activities
- Be purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum
- Be acknowledged by teachers with feedback and support provided, if required

Types of homework that may meet these requirements include:

- *PRACTICE EXERCISES* – providing students with opportunities to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills
- *PREPARATORY HOMEWORK* – providing opportunities for students to gain background information so they are better prepared for future lessons
- *EXTENSION ASSIGNMENTS* – encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively

EXPECTATIONS

Parents can assist their children by:

- Encouraging them to take increasing responsibility for their learning, preparation and organization, based on the child's developmental stage of learning
- Observing and acknowledging their success and talking with them about how their home and class work is progressing
- Encouraging them to set aside a regular daily session to read and complete homework
- Setting an example by reading and writing
- Contacting the teacher to discuss any problems their children are experiencing with homework
- Helping them to complete homework by discussing key questions or directing them to possible resources – *it is usually better to encourage children to complete homework themselves*
- Helping them to balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games and/or engaging in other leisure and recreational activities
- Checking whether homework has been set and ensuring that the child keep a homework diary, if required
- Reading texts set by teachers and discussing their child's response to the texts
- Discussing homework in the 'first language', where English is not the main language spoken at home, and linking it to their previous experiences

Teachers can assist their students by:

- Setting regular homework to help students establish a home study routine
- Setting varied, challenging, engaging and meaningful tasks based on skills that have been covered in class that are appropriate to the students' learning needs and learning styles
- Giving students enough time to complete homework, taking into account home obligations and extracurricular activities
- Assessing homework and providing timely and practical feedback and support
- Making effective use of homework diaries for students who require them
- Helping students develop the organisational and time-management skills needed for them to be responsible for their own learning
- Ensuring that parents are aware of homework expectations
- Developing strategies to support and inform parents so that they can become active partners in homework

SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE

In the Early Years (Prep to Grade 4), homework:

- Will enable the review and possible extension of class work by practising skills or gathering extra information or materials
- Will mainly consist of daily reading to, with, and by parents or older siblings
- May include extension of class work and projects
- Will generally not exceed 30 minutes a day

In the Middle Years (Grade 5 & 6), homework:

- Will enable the review and possible extension of class work by practising skills or gathering extra information or materials
- Should include daily independent reading
- May include extension of class work, projects, assignments and /or research
- Will generally not exceed 45 minutes a day.

EVALUATION

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the college's two year review cycle, individually, in teams and with the community in 2014.