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Hermon School Department

Homework

Hermon Elementary School

Homework is defined as out-of-class tasks assigned to students as an extension or elaboration of classroom work. The three types of homework are as follows:

- Practice** - assignments used to reinforce newly acquired skills
- Preparation** - assignments to help students get ready for activities that will occur in the classroom
- Extension** - assignments that are frequently long-term, continuing projects that parallel class work.

Recent research regarding homework has begun to focus on the relationship between homework and student achievement and has greatly strengthened the case for homework. While the value of homework continues to be debated, it is generally agreed upon by many teachers and parents that homework develops students' initiative and responsibility and fulfills the expectations of students, parents and the public. Studies have found that homework assignments are most helpful if they are carefully planned by the teachers and have direct meaning to students.

Homework is considered one of the ways to increase students' opportunity to learn. The National PTA and the National Education Association have recommended the following amounts of homework:

- From kindergarten to third grade, no more than 20 minutes per day
- From fourth to sixth grade, 20-40 minutes per day.

Teacher response demonstrates that a more realistic practice is:

- Kindergarten, no more than 20 minutes per day
- First grade, no more than 15-30 minutes per day
- Second grade, no more than 15-30 minutes per day
- Third grade, no more than 30 minutes per day
- Fourth grade, no more than 30-40 minutes per day
- Fifth grade, no more than 30-45 minutes per day

Hermon Middle School

It shall be the policy of Hermon Middle School to consider homework as an integral part of the student's total school program. Teachers in grades 6-8 are encouraged to require home study.

Homework provides a link between home and school by giving parents valuable information about the school curriculum and what their children are learning. Homework also provides one-on-one time for parents with their children.

Hermon High School

Philosophy

Hermon High School believes that homework assignments made by the school and supported by the home provide opportunities for our students to learn good study habits, to develop a sense of responsibility for task completion, to learn time management, to reinforce skills and to extend or enrich their classroom learning experiences.

It is expected that all teachers at Hermon High School will follow the general guidelines and specific grade level recommendations made in this policy. It is also expected that parents will accept their responsibility to provide an environment at home that is conducive to learning, will take an interest in their children's school assignments, and will encourage and monitor the development of good "homework" study skills.

Both the school and the home must assume their responsibilities if successful implementation of this policy is to be achieved.

General Guidelines

1. Homework is different from "incomplete" class work. Class work not completed during regular school hours may need to be finished at home; however, teachers should monitor the student's needs and causes for incomplete work very closely.
2. Homework assignments should reflect class work that is at an independent reading or practice level for the student. Parent teaching should neither be expected nor required.
3. Students are expected to do make-up work when they have had an absence from school. If it is decided that some instruction can and should be provided in

the home, then plans should be made so that home instruction is coordinated with what is being taught in the school. Students are encouraged to seek help from teachers when completing make-up work.

4. Homework assignments for each grade level should depend upon or vary with the instructional needs of individual students in the group.
5. Short, meaningful practice activities that reinforce previous learning or interesting learning activities that provide students with opportunities to apply, enrich or extend what they have learned are usually the most desirable "daily" homework assignments. Research papers and/or book reports should be assigned in advance so that students can learn time management and good study habits.
6. Homework expectations should be clearly communicated to all students by all teachers during the first few weeks of each school year or semester.
7. Written homework should provide feedback and be returned promptly to the student.
8. Students should be told how much homework assignments will influence their grade during the first few weeks of the semester or prior to the assignments being made.
9. Homework should be assigned for academic purposes, not for punishment.
10. The availability of resources in the homes or community of the students should be considered when making homework assignments.
11. Homework assignments that are given for extra credit should be used as an opportunity for students to extend their learning, not as a substitute for basic course requirements or objectives.

Students should be expected to spend a reasonable amount of time each evening for four or five evenings per week on homework assignments. Major tests and long-term projects or reports should be coordinated and scheduled in advance so students can learn time management and good study habits.

NOTE: It should be understood that some students will complete some homework assignments during study periods and will not need to spend as many minutes every evening working on homework.

