

Instruction

Homework

Homework during a student's school experiences includes many kinds of learning activities. Two types are essential to an adequate program:

1. Short-term assignments are to be completed by the next class period. They are intended to reinforce academic learnings which have been presented in class. They frequently involve specified reading or drill and practice exercises. Specified reading includes preparation of reports. Topics of mastery and practice exercises provide practical application of this material. Such assignments are often completed during the school day under the supervision of the teacher.
2. Long-term assignments are spread over a number of days or weeks. This type is outlined and explained in school to be completed outside of class hours. Long-term assignments include such school activities as: social studies research, science projects, creative writing and extended reading.

Elementary School

Students in elementary school are grouped within classes for specific instructional purposes. A variety of materials and techniques are used to meet the needs of individual children. Therefore, the same homework assignment can seldom be given at the same time to all children in class. Homework will vary with the needs of the small groups or individual students. Independent study skills, the groundwork for success in homework, should be taught in school and reinforced by parents at home.

Primary Grades (1-3)

Short-term assignments are generally completed during the school day after a period of instruction. This provides an opportunity for the teacher to guide and supervise the young learner in building skills that will lead to independence as he/she moves through the grades. The student is given short-term assignments based on his/her needs and level of maturity and is gradually introduced to the long-terms type of assignments. When assigned, homework should generally not exceed twenty minutes for the first and second grades and thirty minutes for grade three.

Intermediate Grades (4-6)

There are additionally study skills taught in these grades. The skills are emphasized, and practice in them is provided through long-term projects in many content subjects.

Much of the work in relation to these projects is to be completed outside of class time and will require study at home. Short-term assignments are completed at home when the teacher feels additional practice in skills, already taught, is needed.

The teacher provides specific directions and materials for these home assignments. There is an increase in these short-term assignments as students become more independent as they advance in the grades. Generally, homework should not exceed thirty minutes in grade four, forty-five minutes in grade five, and sixty minutes in grade six.

Middle School

Homework in grades seven and eight becomes the responsibility of several teachers in the various subject areas. Each teacher has the responsibility for setting reasonable limits on the requirements for preparation beyond class time. This should be done in cooperation with other teachers.

All homework is designed to extend learning experiences and to stimulate students to study independently. It is recognized that students work at different rates and with varying degrees of efficiency. These factors are considered when assignments are made.

Class time is provided for supervised study to insure thorough understanding of assignments and efficient work habits. Scheduled study periods during the school day provide time for additional preparation. Time at home should be set aside for the completion of assigned work. It should be expected that seventh grade students will have approximately one hour of homework each night and eighth graders will have one and one-half

High School

The amount of outside preparation required increases markedly at the high school level, particularly for the college bound student. The ability to work successfully without supervision is one of the most important attributes a student can attain. Independent study by means of both short-term and long-term assignments becomes a valuable preparation for the more rigorous requirements of the curriculum at college.

Daily homework assignments will average approximately two hours. This time estimate is for the average student, but does not imply that assignments are or should be the same for all students.

Teachers, in making homework assignments, will bear in mind that the foregoing time requirements include the total time allotted for both the short-term everyday type of assignment as well as long-term type of assignment required in several subject areas.

Teachers should consider the possibility of reductions in daily assignments when demands for long-terms assignments are heaviest.

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LEDYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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