

Homework

I. **RATIONALE:** Homework is an integral part of the educational program of children attending the Wallingford Public Schools. Homework should be an extension of clearly defined classroom learning objectives and activities and should be appropriate to the age and ability of the students.

II. **PURPOSES:** The major purposes of homework are to:

1. Help students become self-directed, self-disciplined, responsible, independent learners who can manage time.
2. Reinforce the learning that has taken place in the classroom by providing practice and application.
3. Strengthen basic skills and critical thinking skills.
4. Encourage students to think and search for new ideas.
5. Provide enrichment opportunities that take students beyond what has been covered in the classroom.
6. Help students increase their knowledge base in a learning area.

III. TIME

A. **Regular Assignments:** The amount of time necessary to complete homework assignments and the regularity of the assignment of homework will generally increase from year to year. By the third grade, students will be given homework assignments or be expected to study on a daily basis. However, not all students will be able to complete a homework assignment in the same amount of time.

B. **Work Missed Due to Absence:** Teachers should allow a reasonable amount of time for the completion of assignments missed due to absence.

C. **Assignments Over Scheduled School Vacations:** Assignments should not be given that require completion during regularly scheduled school vacations. Assignments during the summer break will be permitted. Long-term assignments may span regularly scheduled school vacations; however, such assignments should not be due immediately following such a vacation.

INSTRUCTION

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Homework

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Teachers

1. Teachers should explain their homework requirements to students and to parents at the open house.
2. Teachers should explain to students the purpose of each homework assignment and its relation to what has been learned in the classroom.
3. Teachers should explain to students how to do each homework assignment and the expected outcome for each assignment before the students leave the class.
4. Teachers should assign homework early enough in a class to assure that all students have time to record the assignment and to ask for clarification before the class is completed.
5. Teachers will provide assignments for absences due to illness that are of more than one day's duration, if so requested. Requests for assignments must be received at the school office by the close of the school day prior to the day that the parent will pick up the assignments, and the assignments will then be available at the close of school on the subsequent day.
6. Teachers should communicate with parents of children who are falling behind in completing homework assignments.

B. Students

1. Students are expected to record their homework assignments in writing.
2. Students are expected to complete all homework assignments and hand them in on time.
3. Students are expected to assume the consequences if homework is not completed on time and in a satisfactory manner.
4. Students are responsible for any work missed due to absence from class.
5. Students are expected to attend extra help sessions when they do not understand a homework assignment.

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C. Parents

1. Parents should convey a positive attitude towards homework and its value to the student.
2. Parents should help the student to assume responsibility for homework by checking periodically to see that the student has been writing down and completing assignments. Parents should also help the student to accept the consequences if homework is not completed satisfactorily.
3. Parents should encourage the student to develop an effective routine for completing homework and ongoing study.
4. Parents should assure that the student has a place to study that is conducive to concentration.
5. Parents can foster independent reading on the part of the student by providing in the home books and magazines at the appropriate reading level. Adequate resource materials should be provided, as well as a means of reaching a library.
6. Parental help with homework should be limited to explanation of principles rather than actual performance of the work, except in the primary grades when a family project is the homework or when parental interaction or assistance is requested for an assignment.
7. Parents should discuss specific problems concerning their child's homework with the child's teacher or guidance counselor.
8. Parents should secure assignments for the student during absences of several days' duration.

D. Building Administrators

1. Building administrators should include the homework policy in all school handbooks.
2. Building administrators should assure that staff follow the requirements and guidelines of this policy.

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