

Anderson Homework Norms

Definition

Homework is the additional practice and positive reinforcement of classroom instruction and learning. It should be:

- respectful to the child's ability and developmental level,
- related to the work of the classroom and, where possible, to the interest of the individual student,
- reasonable in amount and degree of difficulty. (Chip Wood, 2000)

Individual reading practice is considered a separate entity which should be ongoing and measured in suggested minutes per week.

Rationale

Homework should be a resource that...

- supports new learning
- provides extra practice

Purpose

Homework assignments should develop student responsibility, good study habits, and organizational skills. Homework assignments should:

- allow for flexibility of teacher judgment in order to take into account the unique needs and circumstances of individual students
- provide practice and reinforcement of skills already presented by the teacher
- provide feedback for teachers to help guide instruction
- provide an opportunity for parents to know what their child is studying
- could provide a preview of topics to be explored in the future
- be completed by the student with the support of a parent.

Teacher Guidelines

Homework assignments should be designed to be completed independently and in a reasonable amount of time. The National Parent Teacher Association and the National Education Association (2000) advocate "The Ten Minute Rule" as a general time limit guideline. (0-10 minutes multiplied by the student's grade level per night). The 0-10 minute rule needs to be inclusive of all subjects. Careful consideration should be given during the year-long SOAR (Stop Often And Read) home/school reading program and for previously assigned independent long/short term projects. Lastly, it is highly suggested that when homework is given, parents need to know why and/or what learning target the homework will support.

- When necessary, teachers should communicate clear, written directions and expectations with homework assignments.
- Teachers should communicate to students and parents the relevance of homework assignments by providing discussion and/or appropriate feedback.
- All materials that are necessary for completing assignments should be made available for students.
- In cases where students have more than one teacher assigning homework, teachers should collaborate regarding amounts and types of homework assigned.
- Careful consideration should be given to assigning homework over weekends.
- No homework should be assigned over scheduled school vacations.
- Homework should not be assigned as a form of punishment.
- Assignments outside of the school day should not require use of the Internet.
- Homework should not be part of the report card.
- Homework should promote ownership.
- Students should not be punished for failing to do homework...instead a solution should be sought between home and school.