

HOMework

It is the belief of the MSAD 68 Board of Directors that learning is a lifelong process which extends beyond the classroom. It is important that students recognize that learning occurs in the home and in the community. Homework is one means of practicing the necessary skills of independent study and learning outside the school. For the purpose of definition, homework should be an extension of activities begun in school, and a means of reinforcing the material learned during the school day. Homework may include written work, viewing or reading news reports, studying for tests, reading (academic and recreational), researching, and other activities which are related to classroom work. Homework should be age-appropriate, and provide a meaningful opportunity for learning and returned in a timely manner. Homework may be adjusted where appropriate to provide support for learning differences.

The Board believes that there are several reasons for assigning homework:

- A. Homework helps students learn better and faster. Research shows that many successful students do meaningful homework. By asking students to spend some of their out-of-class time working on a specific skill or subject, teachers make it possible to spend class time teaching students even more.
- B. Homework helps families become involved with education. We know that for schools to do the best possible job educating each student, parents and schools must work together. Homework is one way parents can make a meaningful contribution to helping their sons and daughters achieve. When students see that their parents think education is important, their performance improves.
- C. Homework communicates the high expectations that schools hold for their students. The best schools have confidence that their students can and will achieve. Assigning meaningful homework is one way of letting students develop confidence in their own abilities.
- D. Homework helps students develop self-discipline and organizational skills. Through homework, students learn how to manage their time. They learn the importance of setting goals and working to achieve them. They learn to be responsible for their own achievements. All these skills will help them continue to be successful throughout their lives.

The amount of homework assigned should gradually increase from grade to grade. As a child advances through school, it is reasonable to expect that the amount of homework will be increased, using the following guidelines:

Grades Pre K-2

Generally speaking, very little homework will be assigned to students in Grades Pre K, K and 1. Encouraging reading for pleasure and sharing schoolwork with family members is a good beginning step to help students and families connect school and home for children in this age group.

In Grade 2, a more formalized system of homework MAY begin gradually with assignments of a maximum of 20 minutes in total at the teacher's discretion.

Grades 3-4

It is expected that the amount of homework assigned will increase as the student progresses from third through fourth grade. At this level, homework may be increased in increments of 10 minutes per grade.

Grade 3	Up to 30 minutes in total
Grade 4	Up to 40 minutes in total

Grades 5-8

Educational goals, number of courses carried, and curriculum chosen will account for varying amounts of time being spent on homework by different students. It is important for teachers in these grade levels to consider assignments and projects given by other teachers when assigning homework, in order to adhere to these general guidelines.

Grade 5	Up to 50 minutes in total
Grade 6	Up to 60 minutes in total
Grade 7	Up to 75 minutes in total
Grade 8	Up to 90 minutes in total

Long-Term Assignments that Require Work at Home

As students progress through the grades, teachers are encouraged to assign long-term assignments such as book reports or research projects, which are due several days or weeks ahead. These assignments are intended to help students learn to plan, budget time and use learning materials appropriate to their projects. The due date for long-term assignments or projects may not fall within two school days of the conclusion of a week-long school vacation. This is not intended to be included in the minutes per day guidelines.

Work Missed Due to Absence

Teachers will ensure that work missed due to excused (absence recognized by state law and administration as legally missed days) absence will be assigned in a timely manner. Students will be responsible for arrangements needed to make up missed work. Teachers are expected to have assignments ready within 48 hours upon notification by administration or guidance for students who will be out for extended periods. Students will be given one school day to make up homework for each day of excused absence.

Homework can be a powerful tool to enhance student learning and progress, when it supports classroom lessons and is always checked or reviewed by the assigning teacher. It works best when teachers, students and parents communicate with one another, and when students are praised for their efforts, both at home and at school.

Legal Reference: Maine Dept. of Ed Rule Chap. 125.23, B, 5, 1

Admin Review: 12-19-06
Policy Committee Review: 12-19-06
First Reading: 1-2-07
Second Reading: 2-6-07
Implementation: 2-6-07