

## Homework

6700

**Philosophy:** In keeping with the school philosophy statement, we believe that homework should be a positive learning experience for the child and be both meaningful and reasonable. We believe that homework must be viewed within the context of the whole child's development, allowing a balance of home, school, and community commitments.

Homework offers a valuable opportunity for parents to be involved in their child's learning, and it helps students develop organizational skills and responsibility, practice skills learned at school, perform independent investigations, and create a diversity of products.

In assigning daily homework and long-term projects, teachers must consider the disparities in resources available to students at home. Instructions for assignments should be clear and specific.

**Amount of Homework:** Since students work at different rates and with different standards of quality, teachers' estimates of how long an assignment will take may vary from student to student. The following guidelines are recommended for all subjects combined; however, individual teachers may assign less or more based on the needs of individual students.

### **Guidelines for work to be completed at home:**

Grades K-2: Approximately 30 minutes per day five times per week

Grades 3-4: Approximately 40 minutes per day five times per week

Grades 5-6: Approximately 50 minutes per day five times per week

Grades 7-8: Approximately 60 minutes per day five times per week

If parents and/or students find that assigned homework is taking either too much or too little time, the classroom teacher should be notified to determine the cause.

**Home-School Communications:** Teachers, students, and parents are encouraged to use notes, phone calls, and/or conferences to ensure timely communications about homework issues. Arrangements for make-up work should be determined by teacher, parent, and student. Assignment sheets, calendars, and long-range planning are examples of strategies children should learn to use.

**Coordination and In-School Support:** Since students entering fifth grade work with more than one teacher, some students may need extra support during this transition. Teacher teams should coordinate their assignments and project due-dates to ensure that students who work with more than one teacher are not given large assignments that are due at the same time. Teachers are encouraged to provide a quiet, in-school study time so that students will have a chance to begin their homework assignments and clarify any questions they might have with teacher support and direction. After school homework sessions are often helpful, and many teachers provide these weekly.

Adopted: Blue Hill School Committee – January 14, 1987

Amended: Blue Hill School Committee – April 11, 1995

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