

MERTON SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

HOMEWORK PHILOSOPHY

This policy is to help guide (assist) parents and teachers in the use of homework. Homework is defined by authors as “an extension of schoolwork”, “work that students do on their own time after school hours”. Assignments ordinarily should not require teaching by the parents. This does not preclude the need for help which can be given by parents.

PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK

Homework will be assigned to students at Merton School based upon any or a combination of these criteria:

1. A reinforcement of ongoing class work.
2. A continuation of work started in a specific class but impossible to complete within the given classroom time allotment.
3. An extension of classroom activities which uses community resources – a practical application to the real world.
4. Advance preparation for an upcoming classroom activity, discussion, unit or study, test, etc.
5. An enrichment activity.
6. Make-up work for class absence.

HOMEWORK RESPONSIBILITIES

School Board – adopt a school wide homework policy.

Administrator – coordinates the implementation of the homework policy with staff and communicates this with the parents.

Teachers – grade level teachers communicate homework expectations to the students and parents.

Parents – support the efforts of the school by providing time, encouragement, and involvement

Students – show responsibility to do their homework, return assignments on time, and complete the assignments in the requirements expected.

EXPECTATIONS OF HOMEWORK

Homework should have meaning and not be busy work.

Homework should be considered a part of students grade for academic progress.

Homework should be graded and returned to students for immediate feedback.

Quality – homework turned in should be quality work. Students must meet acceptable standards set by classroom teachers for required work.

BENEFITS OF HOMEWORK

When given on a regular basis, homework can:

1. Develop students' sense of responsibility
2. Foster students' self-discipline
3. Give students a sense of accomplishment
4. Increase learning time
5. Improve retention of factual knowledge
6. Provide practice on recently learned material
7. Give opportunities for synthesis and application of previously learned concepts
8. Promote development of study skills
9. Help students learn time management
10. Enable slow workers to catch and/or keep up
11. Provide opportunities to engage in challenging and creative tasks
12. Make it possible to cover more material in class
13. Provide diagnostic information on students' strengths and weaknesses
14. Inform parents about the curriculum
15. Help update parents on their child's progress
16. Provide necessary time for processing information
17. Demonstrate that learning can take place outside the classroom
18. Encourage the use of more extensive resources than those available in the classroom

TIME GUIDELINES

In accordance with the Merton School Policy, it is suggested that a designated quiet time and quiet place be set aside each evening for the purpose of doing homework. Some evenings students will not have homework. Our recommendation is that this time still be used for activities such as leisure reading or writing. This regular schedule helps students learn time management and self discipline.

"Quiet Time"		Possible "Homework" Time	
K-3	15-30 minutes	K-3	15-30 minutes
4-5	30-45 minutes	4-5	30-45 minutes
6-8	30-90 minutes	6-8	30-90 minutes

Homework time allotments will vary from class to class. These are suggested times only. If your child is spending far more time on homework or never appears to have any homework, it is advisable to contact your child's teacher for clarification.

May 23, 1998

June 20, 1999

August 13, 1999