

**HOMEWORK****A. Introduction**

It is the belief of the Messalonskee School District (MSAD #47) that learning is a lifelong process which extends beyond the school. 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 meaningful opportunity for learning and returned in a timely manner. Homework may be varied where appropriate to provide support for learning differences.

**B. Purpose of Assigning Homework**

- To enrich regular class work
- To stimulate interest in reading and learning
- To make up work missed due to absence
- To allow parents to become knowledgeable and engaged in their child's education
- To help students develop time management and organization skills, and establish independent study skills
- To inform instruction

**C. Homework Responsibilities****Teachers:**

- To assign homework with a purpose that is understood by both teacher and student
- To return daily homework assignments, corrected, within two school days
- To provide clear expectations on evaluative criteria and completion deadlines
- To provide students and parents with a description of their homework practices
- To review all homework assignments with students and provide feedback in a timely manner
- To communicate with parents to support student success in class
- To coordinate homework assignments so that the total amount of time a student spends on all homework falls within the expected guidelines
- To ensure that assignments are within students' capabilities
- To ensure that students have access to the necessary tools to complete the assigned work

**Students:**

- To do his/her best on all assignments
- To be sure to understand the assignments and ask the teacher for help if needed
- To complete assignments on time as required by the teacher
- To obtain assignments after an absence
- To take home required texts and materials to complete homework

**Parents:**

- To provide support, guidance, and the structure needed to successfully complete assignments
- To communicate with the school regarding absences
- To communicate with the teacher(s) regarding student learning, or regarding the need for additional help
- To monitor and praise student success with homework and class work
- To become partners in learning with your child by reviewing assignments and offering advice for improvement of your child's performance
- To ask your child's teacher to see what you can do to better help your child with homework

## D. Guidelines for Assigning Homework

### **Grades K-2**

Generally speaking, very little homework will be assigned to students in Grades 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. (Assignments are not mandatory.)

### **Grades 3-5**

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

(Example: up to 30 minutes for grade 3.)

Grade 3	Up to 30 minutes in total
Grade 4	Up to 40 minutes in total
Grade 5	Up to 50 minutes in total

### **Grades 6-12**

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 6** - Up to a maximum of 60 minutes in total

**Grades 7-8** - Up to a maximum of 90 minutes/night in total (High School level courses offered within the junior high may require additional time).

**Grades 9-12** - Up to a maximum of 120 minutes per night based on a student taking a full instructional load of six courses. (Advanced Placement courses may require additional time including summer assignments).

### **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 then students are praised for their efforts, both at home and at school.

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