



Glen Ravine Junior Public School



Homework Policy

Objective: To establish the Board's belief that homework is an engaging and relevant learning activity. To establish the Board's commitment to the assignment of homework in a purposefully planned manner that is directly connected to a student's school program and learning expectations of the Ontario Curriculum.

Rationale

Homework is an out-of-classroom learning experience assigned by a teacher to enhance student learning. Homework should be reviewed by teachers so that they know where students are now and how to better direct them towards their learning goals.

Purpose of Homework

Homework is assigned for one of four purposes:

1. Completion
 - Any work assigned during the school day not completed in class
2. Practice
 - Any work that reviews and reinforces skills and concepts taught in class
3. Preparation
 - Any work that prepares students for upcoming lessons or classes
4. Extension
 - Any work that explores and refines learning in new contexts or integrates and expands on classroom learning



Effective Homework Assignments:

The purpose of all types of homework is to ensure it is both effective in promoting high quality student learning and achievement, and it nurtures a desire for students to keep learning. Effective homework assignments:

- Are curriculum based and meet the developmental and individual needs of the student through differentiation and modification.
- Should be commented on to provide feedback for future learning.
- Are designed to require no additional teaching outside the classroom and are engaging and relevant to student learning. Students understand what is expected of them before leaving school.
- Do not require resources or technology to which students may not have access.
- May be designed to involve parents/guardians in supporting their children's learning but should not teach new concepts.



Student Responsibilities

- To ensure that he/she clearly understands the homework assigned, e.g., assignments, criteria, and timelines, and asks for clarification or assistance from the teacher when homework assignments or the expectations are not clear
- To record assignments in his/her agenda or student planner
- To regularly complete assigned homework in a timely manner to the best of his/her ability
- To manage time and materials, e.g., by bringing home necessary materials



In the late Primary and Junior grades, effective homework may begin to take the form of independent work. In both cases, homework assigned for completion, practice, preparation or extension should be clearly articulated and differentiated to reflect the unique needs of the child.

Family Responsibilities

- To read in English, French (French Immersion) and/or the family's first language throughout the elementary years of their children's education
- To provide an environment, e.g., workplace, block of uninterrupted time, usually in the home or in an alternative setting, such as a homework club, for homework to be done
- To provide encouragement and appropriate support without doing the homework for their child
- To provide a healthy balance between homework, co-curricular activities and family commitments
- To stop their child from continuing to complete homework at bedtime, even if the work is not done
- To contact the classroom teacher if their child is not consistently able to do the homework by him/herself or if challenges or questions arise.



There is a strong connection between parent involvement and student achievement. As a result, families are encouraged to engage in early learning activities such as playing, talking and reading together in English or in the family's first language. Teachers may provide resources to support home-based early learning activities.

Teacher Responsibilities

- To provide information to parents on the purpose of effective homework and sharing practices that will help families support their children (for e.g., newsletters, open houses, and websites)
- To encourage a partnership with family and students that promotes timely, regular communication and supports families in the homework process
- To design homework assignments that clearly articulate their purpose and expected outcome
- To share expectations for homework with students and parents early in the school year
- To ensure any homework assigned is directly related to classroom instruction and consists of clear, purposeful and engaging activities
- To assign homework that is appropriate to the student's age, developmental level, learning style, skills, and individual needs
- To teach the skills necessary for the student to complete the homework and become successful independent learners
- To articulate and carefully plan homework in partnership with core and rotary teachers

Thank you for supporting our efforts in ensuring your child reaches his/her full potential.

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