

FREDERICK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	Reg. No. 500-15
Subject: HOMEWORK GUIDELINES	Date of Issue: 5/10/79
Preparing Office: Office of the Superintendent	Amended: 4/2/08

I. Policy

II. Procedures

A. General Homework Philosophy

Educators and parents share one common goal--to help each student in our schools be successful. Each group plays an important role in student achievement. Students learn best when they, their parents, and their schools work together.

Parents are encouraged to communicate with teachers should questions arise concerning homework, and teachers should contact parents when the student's homework is not satisfactory.

Homework assignments shall not be given as a means of punishment. Homework should be commensurate with the age and instructional level of the child. Students and parents should expect a reasonable amount of homework. Students should be adequately prepared at school to complete assigned homework. In situations where students are working with more than one teacher, consideration should be given by the faculty to avoid excessive homework assignments on any particular night.

B. Secondary and Elementary Schools

1. Types of Homework - There are four (4) general categories of homework:

- a. **Practice** - The student refines and strengthens skills previously taught in class through drill of simple applications, reading and writing.
- b. **Preparation** - The completion of this type of assignment makes the next day's lesson more meaningful and easier to master. Reading and familiarization with facts and ideas characterize this type of homework.
- c. **Extension** - This is the application of skills and concepts to more complicated situations. It requires higher level thinking skills, problem-solving and use of abstract ideas. Short essays and reports are examples of this type.
- d. **Integration** - Successful completion of the assignment requires coordinating and combining several skills and concepts. This type requires more time and a greater variety of resources. Research papers and projects are examples.

2. Time Spent on Homework - Although homework varies from class to class, students should expect assignments to be given daily.
 - a. **High Schools** - An average of two (2) hours of homework per night for combined subjects.
 - b. **Middle Schools** - A recommended 60 minutes for all combined subjects for sixth grade and 75 minutes maximum for seventh and eighth grades.
 - c. **Elementary Schools** - Grade 1-2: A maximum of 15 minutes of homework.
Grade 3: A maximum of 30 minutes of homework.
Grade 4-5: A maximum of 45 minutes of homework.

Homework should be assigned Monday through Thursday. It is not recommended that homework be given over weekends or on holidays. However, there may be instances where homework on weekends would be appropriate.

3. Feedback

Homework assignments should be checked regularly for understanding and completion. If the homework will be evaluated, the teacher shall communicate to the students the criteria and process ahead of time. A student's decision not to complete homework assignments could result in a drop of not more than one letter grade for the marking period.

4. Parents are encouraged to:

- a. Create a home environment that makes studying each night a priority.
 - (1) Set and maintain a daily homework time.
 - (2) Provide necessary supplies.
 - (3) Assist your child in establishing a system for recording homework assignments. Help in organizing class notes and notebooks.
 - (4) Plan an order of study: for example, save the most enjoyable study until last, plan breaks and use a timer to segment difficult tasks.
 - (5) Encourage a buddy system to get homework when absent from class.
- b. Be an advocate for your child and his/her learning.
 - (1) Provide praise, support and assistance when necessary.
 - (2) Communicate with the teacher when you have questions or concerns about homework assignments.

Approved:

Original signed by

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Superintendent