

REGULATION

— WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Homework

R 2330 HOMEWORK

Belief Statements:

- Homework should be used to preview or reinforce concepts taught in the classroom to extend the learning.
- Homework should be meaningful, relevant to the curriculum, and reflective of the work completed during the day.
- Technology should be utilized to enhance and communicate homework.
- Homework should provide differentiated approaches and/or assignments to meet the individual needs of the students.
- Students will be held accountable for all homework, whether it is assigned for practice without mastery or requires extended time over several days to conduct a deep investigation, with feedback always provided.
- Homework should be avoided on breaks and holidays. Weekend assignments should be limited and infrequent.
- Since homework is one means of preparing students for assessments, adequate time should be given between formative and summative assessments so that students can demonstrate growth and improvement.
- Homework should have coordinated practices and procedures across grade levels and departments.

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- Summer Assignments
 - The purpose of summer assignments may differ according to the level and/or content of the course. Purposes include (a) to emphasize the requisite skills and depth of knowledge for students to ensure that all students begin the year prepared for the challenges of the individual course, (b) to continue the development of independent reading skills and strategies while fostering a love of reading, (c) to provide an opportunity to address deficiencies prior to the start of the school year, (d) to foster critical thinking and analysis skills.
 - Summer assignments should be assessed using multiple methods, such as (a) checking for completion, (b) assessing through minor/formative measures after review of concepts, (c) performance based skill assessment.

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Belief Statement #1

Homework should be used to preview or reinforce concepts taught in the classroom to extend the learning.

Implementation Guidelines for #1

"Previewing" is best defined for our organization as giving students a basic idea of the upcoming content without expectation of student mastery.

"Reinforcing" is best defined for our organization as providing students with the support necessary to strengthen understanding.

- Methods of previewing or reinforcing can include:
 - Using a flipped classroom approach
 - Engaging students in a vocabulary rating scale/anticipatory activity
 - Utilizing video tutorials
 - Assigning a brief reading assignment
 - Administering a pre-assessment
 - Requiring students to accessing prior knowledge
- Content should be limited so as not to overwhelm or discourage students outside of class
- Flipped classroom assignments should be limited to approximately 15 minutes. Best practices suggest that lengthy flipped assignments are ineffective, and shorter flipped assignments are very effective.

Belief Statement #2:

Homework should be meaningful, relevant to the curriculum, and reflective of the work completed during the day.

Implementation Guidelines for #2

- Homework should have a specific purpose tied to the learning target that is based on the content area's standards or the child's individual goal(s) and known to the student. It should be assigned when appropriate, as opposed to routinely.
- The teacher will design homework to deepen students' knowledge of informational content, making sure it is aligned to the curriculum and relevant content standards.
- Homework can also be designed to help students practice a skill, process, or strategy. In addition, homework can be used to demonstrate understanding and/or extend an activity begun in class.
- Homework may be offered to students in a menu of choices.

Belief Statement #3:

Technology should be utilized to enhance and communicate homework.

Implementation Guidelines for #3

- Technology enhanced homework assignments should also reflect higher levels of the SAMR (Substitution, Augmentation, Modification, and Redefinition) model, when appropriate.

Traditional Homework Example: Create a Poster Board

Substitution:

- Create a PowerPoint presentation

Augmentation:

- Add animations to the PowerPoint slides

Modification:

- Share the PowerPoint via Office 365 for peer review

Redefinition

- Share the presentation through Skype to collaborate with students in another country

- Communication

- Homework will be posted and updated on the Unified Classroom and linked to SchoolWires Teacher Pages for all staff members. Staff may remind students via Remind, email, or other communication tools.

Belief Statement #4:

Homework should provide differentiated approaches and/or assignments to meet the individual needs of the students.

Implementation Guidelines for #4

In assigning homework, a teacher can differentiate by product and/or readiness.

- Product**
 - To ensure the students are grasping the objective, homework assignments may be varied and provide students with options.

- Readiness**
 - Assignments should be modified and based on the student's individualized level and/or knowledge of the content.
 - For example, a student who has conquered the skills might require more challenging practice.

Belief Statement #5:

Students will be held accountable for all homework, whether it is assigned for practice without mastery or requires extended time over several days to conduct a deep investigation, with feedback always provided.

Implementation Guidelines for #5

If the goal of a homework assignment is reinforcement/practice of what was learned in class and the purpose is to make sure students understand the concept, the homework may be graded for correctness, or for completion. As much as possible, feedback should be provided particularly when the student's completed homework is incorrect.

If the purpose of a homework assignment is to measure progress towards mastery of a learning goal, the assignment will be scored. The student should be provided an extended period of time to complete the assignment, along with clearly defined scoring expectations. The teacher should monitor a student's progress throughout the length of the assignment.

Belief Statement #6:

Homework should be avoided on breaks and holidays. Weekend assignments should be limited and infrequent.

Implementation Guidelines for #6

When extended work is assigned over a weekend or break, the teacher should be available for support through email or some other electronic medium.

Time management is a skill that needs to be taught and reinforced at all levels to all students. This will help reduce stress levels, recognizing that each student has different organization, emotional maturity, and support at home.

To facilitate time management, assignment planners and calendars should be utilized.

We should continue to alert our teachers of important cultural holidays that may impact students' ability to complete homework. Our ESL teachers can be very helpful in this area!

Belief Statement #7:

Since homework is one means of preparing students for assessments, adequate time should be given between formative and summative assessments so that students can demonstrate growth and improvement.

Implementation Guidelines for #7

In order for students to adequately prepare for formative and summative assessments, review should be provided prior to allow students to ask questions and to receive feedback from the teacher.

After a formative assessment, ample time (not back-to-back days) should be provided for feedback from the teacher and possible re-teaching prior to a summative assessment. This affords the students the chance to revise knowledge and examine errors in their reasoning.

“Back-to-back” days is best defined for our organization through an example (e.g., A teacher assigns a quiz on Unit #1 on Monday, returns the quiz and tests Unit #1 on Tuesday.

- Formative Assessment – A type of assessment that monitors student learning in order to provide feedback by the instructor/teacher to improve teaching and learning.
 - Quizzes
 - Exit Tickets
 - Homework Assignments
 - Projects
 - Journal Pages
 - Conferring
 - Running Records

Formative assessment feedback is integral for planning instructional activities based on the needs of the students.

- Summative Assessment – A type of assessment that evaluates learning that is measured by a standard or benchmark.
 - Midterm/Final exams
 - Projects
 - Papers
 - Unit Benchmarks
 - Marking Period Benchmarks
 - Performance-Based

Belief Statement #8:

Homework should have coordinated practices and procedures across grade levels and departments.

Implementation Guidelines for #8

Elementary – In order to provide consistency across the district, grade levels will require the same amount of homework.

High School – If there are more than two major assessments on a given day, the teacher must give students the option to postpone taking additional assessments at a later date. A sign-off sheet will be developed for teachers to document that major assessments are actually scheduled for that day.

Kindergarten:

- Independent reading at home is assigned four nights a week.

Elementary Grades 1-5:

- Independent reading at home is assigned four nights a week.
- Aside from independent reading, homework should be able to be completed independently in approximately 10 minutes per grade level. For example, a fourth grader may have approximately 40 minutes of homework assigned.
- Homework will consist of mathematics practice, word work, vocabulary, and/or written work related to science and social studies concepts

Middle School:

- Independent reading at home is assigned for 60 minutes a week.
- Aside from independent reading, homework should be able to be completed independently in approximately 60-80 minutes total for all of the student's subjects.

High School:

- Independent reading at home is assigned for 60 minutes a week.
- Should be able to be completed independently in approximately 90-120 minutes total for all of the student's subjects.
- Rigor versus volume must be considered and appropriate homework may be assigned based on the level of the course (Integrated, College Prep, Honors, AP).