

Homework defined:
Homework is any school work completed outside the classroom.

Effective Use of Homework

Teachers should

- design and assign homework which facilitates student understanding and success.
- clearly communicate the purpose, directions, and expectations for homework to students.
- provide choice when possible to meet individual student interests, abilities, and needs.
- consider how many problems or how much practice is actually needed for students to reach proficiency.
- provide timely, effective feedback on homework to ensure student understanding and allow time for re-teaching if necessary.
- ensure that homework does not comprise a significant portion of a student's grade.
- seek input from parents and students concerning homework, and work closely with them when concerns are raised.
- contact parents when a student begins to develop a pattern of late or incomplete work.

Teachers should not

- assign homework as a punishment or remove it as a reward.
- assign homework over holiday breaks, during summer recess or off-track sessions in year-round schools.

Homework Guidelines

Homework and Learning

Davis School District believes homework is a valuable learning tool when it is purposeful, meaningful, and supports the goals of education. We recognize and value the roles of parents and families in supporting student learning, and encourage teachers, administrators, and families to work together. At the beginning of each year, teachers and administrators should work collaboratively with students and families to review homework practices, revise when needed, and ensure alignment with current research and adherence to district guidelines.

Purposes of Homework

Effective homework has a clear educational purpose, is connected to classroom learning, and may be classified as one of the following:

- *Pre-learning* gives students the opportunity to prepare for classroom instruction.
- *Checking for Understanding* provides the teacher with information about each student's knowledge in order to plan for re-teaching as well as for further instruction.
- *Practice* provides students with an opportunity to practice skills and concepts learned in class.
- *Extension and Integration* asks students to transfer previously learned skills and concepts into new or more complex situations, including real world applications.

Encouraging Homework Completion

Homework that is not completed cannot support student learning, therefore, teachers should employ multiple strategies to encourage homework completion. Some strategies are listed below:

- Before assigning homework, provide students with time to practice skills and concepts during class time and use informal and formative assessments to ensure students have the ability to successfully complete homework.
- Give homework assignments early enough in the school day or class period for students to *begin* homework in class, thus providing them with an opportunity to clarify expectations and ask questions.
- Monitor the actual time it takes struggling students to complete homework and adjust assignments appropriately; provide students with additional school support (i.e., useful websites, online homework help from the teacher).
- Establish a routine for assigning homework.
- Provide students and parents with project information (i.e., assignment criteria, due dates, materials needed, etc.) in a timely manner and post assignments and project information in the classroom *and* on the teacher's website.
- For larger projects/assignments, divide the homework into manageable segments with intermittent due dates and ongoing feedback.
- Give parents specific guidelines about how they can help their students with homework.

Maximum homework time per day

Elementary		Secondary	
Grade	Minutes	Grade	Minutes
Kindergarten/1 st	5-10	7 th	70
2 nd	20	8 th	80
3 rd	30	9 th	90
4 th	40	10 th	100
5 th	50	11 th	110
6 th	60	12 th	120

Note:

Homework need not be assigned every day.

Homework *includes* assigned reading and should be considered when assigning homework (i.e., if a fifth grade student is assigned 20 minutes of reading, the teacher may assign an additional 30 minutes of homework for a total of 50 minutes).

Teachers of students in grades 7-12 should be aware that the time recommendation is per day, not per class period. On larger projects, teachers should coordinate to avoid homework overload.

Parents and students should be aware that advanced academic programs such as Spectrum, Honors, Advanced Placement (AP), Concurrent Enrollment (CE), and International Baccalaureate (IB) may require additional hours from time to time.

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Suggestions for Parents

- Ask your child what they learned in school and engage them in conversation about it.
- Schedule a regular time for your child to do homework.
- Provide a suitable area and necessary tools for the completion of homework.
- Encourage your child to work on homework independently; give support as needed.
- Look for ways to give positive feedback and support for learning.
- Share any concerns regarding homework with your child's teacher(s).

Tips for Students

- Know the expectations for the class.
- Create a place where you can concentrate on learning.
- Have everything you need to study close by. Move things you don't need away from your study area.
- Outline and rewrite your notes. Notes rewritten in your own words will help you understand the content more fully.
- Use mnemonic devices (methods for remembering pieces of information using a simple association of common words; for example, HOMES: the great lakes, Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, and Superior).
- Practice by yourself or with friends. Quiz yourself or quiz each other about the content you are studying.
- Take breaks. Divide study time into segments that make sense and work for you; for example, study for 20 minutes and take a 5 minute break.
- Approach studying with a positive attitude.
- Keep healthy and balanced—exercise regularly and eat right.