

Homework

Hillsborough Elementary School

This plan complies with Board Policy 3135, which states that “Homework is a part of the total instructional experience. It is a continuation or extension of the classroom and is intended to enrich and extend student initiative.” The principals of each school shall have on file the homework plan for their school.

Descriptor	For Students and Families														
<p>Frequency and Average Amount of Homework</p>	<p>As a general rule, Hillsborough Elementary School students will have homework assigned three four nights a week to reinforce academic standards being taught in the classroom. In addition, students will be expected to read independently or have parents/family members read to them nightly for four nights per week.</p> <p>Recommended time allocations for homework (outside of silent reading):</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="479 814 1144 1125"> <thead> <tr> <th>Grade Level</th> <th>Minutes per Night</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>K</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>50</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Note: Some students may take longer to complete a homework assignment, based on their ability level, understanding of the skill, or the amount of time it takes the student to complete assignments Hillsborough Elementary School families are encouraged to communicate with your child’s classroom teacher.</p> <p>Homework should be challenging, but students should not reach a level of frustration on a nightly basis. Teachers can make modifications to the homework assignments or assess students in class to identify where a student may be struggling.</p> <p>Families are encouraged to send a note or email to the classroom teacher if the homework is taking more than the recommended time listed above. Additional time and academic support will be provided by school staff the next day. We do not want families to have a struggle with homework on a nightly basis.</p>	Grade Level	Minutes per Night	K	10	1	15	2	20	3	30	4	40	5	50
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Grade/Weight of Homework	Homework is graded differently, based on the assignment. Some assignments are given to provide students with additional practice and to reinforce a skill. Projects and assignments that have a rubric are usually given a grade. The weight of any individual assignment will be determined by the classroom teacher or grade level team, depending on the nature of the assignment.
Homework MakeUp Procedures	Students will be given an appropriate amount of time to make up the work based on the reason for their absence and the amount of work they are capable of doing in consideration of their absence.
Guidelines for Appropriate Parent/Family Involvement in Homework	<p>Listed below are guidelines for parental/family involvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Encourage students to complete their homework in a timely manner each day. ● Offer praise for a job well done. Reinforce the positive things that you see your child doing in school. ● Show interest by asking questions such as, “What is this assignment about?” ● Check that assignments are completed. ● Communicate with your child’s teacher when your child is struggling with an assignment via Homework Folder, Email, or a Phone Call to the child’s teacher. ● View the teacher’s website to see if the teacher offers additional clarification or examples about the homework and classroom assignments.
Means by Which Parents/Families Will Be Informed About Expectations	Some teachers use a Homework Folder. This is more common in grades K2. In grades 3-5, students begin writing their assignment in a homework folder or on a calendar. Each teacher will communicate the method for communicating homework assignments with families. If you are uncertain about the communication plan, please contact your child’s teacher.
Access to Resources, Materials, Assistance/Support	It will be the teacher’s responsibility to ensure that students have access to resources, materials and support needed to complete a homework assignment. Modification of assignments on an individual student basis may be needed for some homework assignments.

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Appropriate Homework	<p>According to Board Policy 3135: To make sure that homework is appropriate, teachers should follow these guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assign purposeful homework. Legitimate purposes for homework include introducing new content, practicing a skill or process that students can do independently but not fluently, elaborating on information that has been addressed in class to deepen students' knowledge, and providing opportunities for students to explore topics of their own interest. ● Design homework to maximize the chances that students will complete it. Ensure that homework is at the appropriate level of difficulty. Students should be able to complete homework assignments independently with relatively high success rates, but they should still find the assignments challenging enough to be interesting. ● Carefully monitor the amount of homework assigned so that it is developmentally appropriate and does not take too much time away from other home activities.
Guidelines for Teachers	<p>Teachers should assign homework that relates to, builds on, reinforces, and/or enhances learning in the classroom; encourages a student's sense of responsibility, develops a sense of personal accountability, promotes learning, and improves study habits. In addition, students should have been taught the skills necessary to complete the homework.</p> <p>Teachers should intervene when students are spending excessive amounts of time on homework.</p> <p>The assignment of homework, to the extent possible, should be coordinated among subjects, teams, teachers, and/or grades to distribute the workload across disciplines, integrate assignments, and avoid excessive amounts on any given night.</p> <p>The evaluation of homework by the teacher should be timely, consistent, understandable, and communicated clearly and regularly to students and parents/families. Teachers should not assign homework as a punishment.</p>