

## **Franklin County School District Homework Guidelines**

Homework can be an integral part of our instructional program. Homework assignments can be useful in the teaching and learning process. Homework assignments should reinforce daily lessons, should involve problem-solving and creative thinking, and may be useful in preparation for a next assignment.

### **Purposes of Homework:**

- Practice/Reinforcement to provide the student with review and practice necessary to learn and/or reinforce what was taught in class;
- Extension to guide the student so that he/she expands upon concepts taught in class and to provide for greater opportunities to meet students' needs;
- Creativity to include the higher order thinking skills of analysis, synthesis, evaluation, and often involves the development of a project/product illustrating the student's understanding of a topic;
- Preparation to help the student prepare for the next assignment.

### **Guiding principles for developing homework assignments:**

- Homework practices should be flexible, developmentally appropriate, and suited to the needs of the students.
- Homework must be relevant to the lives of the students.
- Success in homework assignments should be attainable. Appropriate, differentiated assignments should provide opportunities for success for all students, regardless of academic or linguistic differences.
- A variety of assignments should be developed in order to address different learning styles and student interests across various disciplines.
- Assignments and projects should provide opportunities to select from a menu of choices whenever possible.
- Homework may utilize collaborative processes and group work whenever appropriate.

### **Preparation before assigning homework:**

- Teachers should model how to initiate or do part of the assignment.
- Teachers should discuss the purpose of the assignment.
- Teachers should discuss the content of the assignment.
- Teachers should discuss the format/organization of the assignment.
- Teachers should discuss possible resources for completing the assignment.
- Teachers should offer several examples.
- Teachers should ask for and answer student questions.

### **Types of Assignments**

Homework assignments may take a variety of forms. Homework may include but is not limited to the following:

- Reading
- Studying
- Long-term or short-term projects
- Review of previously acquired skills in any content area

- Relevant enrichment
- Tests
- Review
- Necessary practice

Students should be encouraged to include reading as part of their daily homework routine. Reading silently for improved comprehension and reading aloud with others should both be encouraged.

### **Recommended Time Allocation**

Homework may take the form of daily, multi-day or weekly assignments or a long-term project. The required time for a homework assignment depends upon the grade and age of the students and the purpose of the assignment. Whenever possible, teachers should coordinate homework assignments with other teachers, so that students do not feel overwhelmed by the amount of homework they may receive for any particular time.

Daily Homework Time Allocation

| Grades                | Independent Reading | Homework Assignments (All Subjects Combined)  | Total Minutes per Day |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---|-----------------------|
| K – 1                 | 15 minutes          | 15 minutes  | 30 minutes            |
| 2 – 3                 | 15 minutes          | 30 minutes  | 45 minutes            |
| 4 – 5                 | 15 minutes          | 45 minutes  | 60 minutes            |
| 6 – 8                 | 15 minutes          | 90 minutes  | 105 minutes           |
| 9 – 12                | 30 minutes          | 90 – 120 minutes (20 – 30 minutes per subject ) or the equivalent on a weekly basis | 120 – 150 minutes     |
| AP or dual enrollment | 30 minutes          | May need more than the average homework time  |                       |

### **Accountability and Grading**

Homework should be completed by students and reviewed by the teacher in a timely manner. Teachers may decide whether or not to grade homework. If homework is graded it may not contribute to a student’s failing a course. If homework is graded, teachers are expected to provide regular feedback to parents regarding the completion and performance on homework assignments. Teachers may want to periodically have parents/guardians sign student homework.

### **Parental Involvement**

Parents/guardians are encouraged to support the school in the following ways:

- Provide an atmosphere at home that is conducive to effective studying;
- Establish a daily routine for completing homework;
- Ask children questions about the homework;
- Take an interest in children’s homework assignments.

Parents/guardians should discuss any difficulties related to homework assignments with their child’s teachers and maintain regular contact with the teacher regarding their child’s progress.

Homework guidelines should be listed in school handbooks and reviewed with parents during parent meetings.