

HOMEWORK

1. General Principles

The Board of Education recognizes the role that homework can play in the academic and personal development of students. Homework can be a valuable tool for reinforcing classroom learning and fostering the development of: independence, positive work habits, time-management skills, and personal responsibility. It is our belief that purposely assigned homework supports the growth of essential skills and knowledge, ensuring that students are well-prepared for future academic and life challenges.

We understand that homework should serve as a means to extend learning beyond the classroom, enabling students to apply concepts and to engage in independent problem-solving. As such, homework assignments should be purposeful, relevant, and designed to enhance the educational experience. Homework should be designed to reinforce classroom learning, develop responsibility, and build positive study habits. It should provide students with the opportunity to practice skills, explore subjects in more depth, and develop a deeper understanding of course material. Homework should therefore be aligned with specific outcomes aligned to standards within specific courses, which help ensure the content of the course is purposeful, relevant and engaging.

In acknowledging the diverse backgrounds and needs of our students, the Board emphasizes the importance of equity in homework planning. Teachers are encouraged to consider the varying home environments, access to resources, and individual learning needs of students when assigning homework. This consideration ensures that all students have a fair opportunity to succeed and that homework does not become a source of undue stress or disadvantage.

Our commitment to equitable homework practices includes:

1. **Purposeful Assignments:** Ensuring that all homework has a clear educational objective and is aligned with classroom instruction.
2. **Reasonable Workload:** Balancing the quantity of homework to avoid overwhelming students, while providing sufficient practice to develop essential skills and knowledge.
3. **Access to Resources:** Taking into account the availability of resources at home and providing support or alternatives for students who may lack access.

4. **Clear Expectations:** Communicating clearly the goals and expectations of homework assignments, providing guidance on how to approach and complete tasks effectively.
5. **Feedback and Support:** Offering timely feedback on homework and additional support where needed to help students improve and learn from their efforts.

Through these practices, we aim to create a homework policy that supports all students in their journey towards academic excellence and personal growth. The Board of Education is committed to fostering an environment where homework contributes positively to the development of independent, responsible, and capable learners.

1. Homework: Elementary Grades

The following are the suggested amounts of time for homework in the elementary grades, if homework supports the aforementioned general principles:

- A. Kindergarten: No more than 10 minutes of homework each night.
- B. Grade 1 & 2: No more than 20 minutes of homework each night.
- C. Grades 3 - 5: No more than 25 minutes of homework each night.

2. Homework: Secondary Courses

The following are the suggested amounts of time for homework in the middle school and high school grades, if homework supports the aforementioned general principles:

- E. Grades 6 - 8: No more than 15 minutes of homework each night per subject
- F. Grades 9 -12: No more than 20 minutes of homework each night per subject

3. Miscellaneous Points

Teachers and administrators shall use every suitable means available to inform parents of the Sharon Springs Central School's rules and policies regarding homework.

The Board strongly encourages parents to take an active role in seeing that their children complete satisfactorily the homework assignments they receive. Parents are urged to work with their children on homework assignments and projects whenever feasible.

This policy will be reviewed and approved annually by the Board of Education.