

HOMEWORK

1. General Principles

The Board of Education of the Sharon Springs Central School District believes that study and careful preparation are necessary if students are to grow academically and acquire the learning they will need for personal satisfaction, full civic responsibility, and successful employment in later life. The Board also believes that the amount of preparation a student ought to do for optimal learning in her/his academic subjects should increase as that student progresses through the grades.

The Board believes that homework provides students with practice in needed skills. It also trains them in good work habits, affords them opportunities for increasing their self-direction, helps them learn to budget their time, and brings them into contact with out-of-school learning. In addition, homework promotes the growth of students' individual responsibility.

In the Board's view, the amount of homework that ought to be given will vary with the grade, the subject studied, and even with the individual student. As they progress through the grades, students should be prepared to spend more time outside the school day and setting in an independent study. The amount of time that is needed to accomplish the aims the Board has set for homework will vary with the effective use to which the student puts her/his class time, as well as her/his rate of comprehension and concentration on the work that is to be done.

There are, in the Board's opinion, many types of homework. Some of it is to be assigned regularly by the classroom teacher as a standard part of the instruction that she/he provides to those in her/his class. Some homework will also grow informally out of class activities.

The Board would have it clearly understood that not all homework is meant to be in the form of written assignments. A student needs to spend some time reading and reviewing work that she/he has done already in class. Day-to-day preparation of work for classes immediately ahead helps students to establish good study habits.

2. Regularly Assigned Homework: Elementary Grades

The following are the suggested amounts of time for homework in the elementary grades:

- A. Kindergarten: Typically, students will receive 15 minutes of homework each night.
- B. Grade 1: Typically, students will receive 20 minutes of homework each night.
- C. Grade 2-3: Typically, students will receive 30 minutes of homework each night.
- D. Grades 4 & 5: Typically, students will receive 40 minutes of homework each night.

3. Regularly Assigned Homework: Secondary Grades

One of the key reasons a given student succeeds or fails in school is that the individual has or has not spent sufficient time, both in quantity and quality, in study outside the classroom. Some of the homework a student is expected to do will be assigned by that student's classroom teachers. Some homework will be suggested; some will be initiated by the student her/himself. As the student matures, she/he must be able first of all to assess adequately the weaknesses she/he finds in her/his understanding of material that has been covered and assigned; then she/he must be able to take remedial steps in the form of self-initiated study to correct deficiencies that are discovered.

Teachers of students in Grade 6 may expect students to come to them with some experience and some skills in carrying out regular assignments. Nevertheless, full development of those skills ought not to be routinely expected.

The Board suggests the following targets for time to be spent on homework in the secondary grades:

- A. Grades 6-8: An average of 1 or 2 hours each day ought to be spent on homework. For major academic areas, 15 minutes per subject as a minimum to 30 minutes as a maximum is expected.
- B. Grades 9-12: An average of 2-3 hours each day ought to be spent on homework. For major academic subjects, an average of 30-60 minutes per subject is expected. Major academic subjects beyond Grade 9 include English, Social Studies, and courses leading to a sequence.

4. 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.