

Dallastown Area Middle School

HOMWORK PROTOCOLS

Homework is an integral part of the learning process and an important component of the curriculum. Evaluation of school progress at all instructional levels includes performance in home assignments, as well as in class work.

Homework has these important objectives:

1. To reinforce concepts and skills taught in the classroom.
2. To develop thinking and study skills.
3. To promote student responsibility, initiative and self-direction.
4. To enlighten parents/guardians as to course content and teacher expectation.
5. To encourage carry-over of worthwhile school activities into lasting leisure interests.

As with all schoolwork, but specifically with homework, the interaction among the teacher-student-parent is essential for successful completion of the tasks. Yet, the final responsibility for completing the homework rests with the students.

Homework may consist of a variety of assignments at varying cognitive levels including, but not limited to, drill and practice, application, writing activities, reading, memorization, note-taking, project work, etc. Both daily and/or long-range assignments are appropriate.

The amount and frequency of homework shall be determined at the discretion of the teacher, taking into consideration the ability and level of the student, the materials presented in class, and the overall workload of the student.

Homework shall be an integral part of the student evaluation and grading process and criteria appropriate to the intent and purpose of the homework.

Student responsibilities:

1. Each student shall be responsible for completing homework assignments as directed.
2. Knowing what homework has been assigned, and to make sure the assignment is understood.
3. Taking necessary materials home to complete homework assignments.
4. Completing assignments accurately, neatly and on time.

Parent/Guardian responsibilities:

1. To be knowledgeable of the teachers' homework expectations.
2. To provide a suitable study area for the child in the home.
3. To encourage independence in completion of homework assignments.
4. To be available to assist in reinforcement of basic skills.
5. If concerns or questions arise dealing with homework, to contact the classroom teacher.

Teacher responsibilities:

1. To be knowledgeable about the district's homework policy.
2. Inform parents/guardians and students of homework expectations as it relates to his/her classroom.
3. Provide homework that will reinforce, enrich or give practice related to academic skills and concepts previously taught in the classroom.
4. Guard against unreasonable or disproportionate amounts of homework, keeping in mind the ability and level of the student.
5. Homework will not be used as a form of punishment.
6. Make certain students fully understand the assignment and are fully prepared to do the assignment independently.
7. Make certain there is prompt and effective follow-up for each homework assignment appropriate to the intent and purpose of the assignment.
8. Inform parents/guardians when child habitually refrains from completing homework assignments.
9. To periodically reflect on homework expectations as these pertain to the purpose of this policy.

Day-to-day homework assignments:

- a) Time should be provided in class to clarify the homework assignment.
- b) Homework is to be completed by the period it is due.
- c) Credit may be given for homework and may be part of the nine (9) week grade.
- d) Homework should count for no more than 20% of the grade.
- e) Homework assignments and expectations recognize individual student differences, abilities, achievement levels and needs.
- f) Homework is not restricted to written assignments.
- g) Students should study and/or review notes and text daily.

Assignments (other than day-to-day homework):

- a) Assignments other than day-to-day homework are to be completed by the period it is due.
- b) Ten percent will be deducted for each day the assignment is past due.
- c) Students are expected to submit all assignments despite the grade.
- d) Long term assignments should have established checkpoints.