



## **CABRILLO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

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*"Cabrillo Cares"*

Giselle Hudson, Principal

### **HOMEWORK POLICY**

Cabrillo's Homework Policy is closely aligned with Fremont's Board of Education's Homework policy. Homework is any activity assigned which is primarily accomplished outside of regular classroom time to advance student learning of the standards in each curricular area and that has a definite relationship to the student's instructional program, and that supports and enriches class work. Homework is an integral part of the educational program of the students in the Fremont Unified School District and should be assigned on a regular basis. Development of the whole child and the importance of extra curricular activities, play, and socialization.

#### **THE PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK**

Homework prepares students for new material, reinforces academic learning, and expands upon classroom instruction. It creates new understanding, building a sense of responsibility in students for their own education, and informs/involves parents and guardians.

Homework assignments should be appropriate to the developmental levels of students and relevant to classroom instruction as enrichment, reinforcement, and extension of learning opportunities, not a displacement of or substitute for classroom instruction. Homework given in Honors/GATE classes should conform to the time estimates for other non-Honors/GATE classes. The intent is to have Honors/GATE students do differentiate, not more, homework. Homework will be reviewed by the teacher for correctness. The teacher will use the student data from homework assignments to inform his/her instruction.

#### **TIME ALLOTMENTS**

The Guidelines below are for weekly assignments of homework. Homework should not be assigned on Fridays, during breaks and vacations as a regular practice. The Board's intent is to reserve weekends and vacations for family time. The total numbers of minutes stated below include all subjects and classes. Studying for exams and related subject area classroom independent reading should be included in the required nightly minutes for homework. Students with excused absences are allotted the same number of days of the absence to complete work.

Kindergarten homework will be approximately 10-15 minutes per evening, or 40-60 minutes per week.

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade homework will be approximately 10-30 minutes per evening, or 40-120 minutes per week.

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade homework will be approximately 30-45 minutes per evening, or 120-180 minutes per week.

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade homework will be approximately 45-60 minutes per evening, or 180-240 minutes per week.

The Board supports the development of life-long readers. In accordance with State content standards, the following are recommended guidelines in addition to their regular school reading:

By grade 4, read one-half million words annually, roughly 20-30 minutes per night.

By grade 8, read one million words annually, roughly 20-30 minutes per night.

By grade 12, read two million words annually, roughly 20-30 minutes per night..

### **Classroom Homework Plan**

Homework will be reviewed, corrected, and feedback will be given to students in a timely manner.

The Classroom Homework Plan will be based on the following guidelines:

- a) Homework assignments will be planned so that a variety of study skills are practiced. Different types of assignments will be given, and students may be provided with the opportunity to choose from a variety of homework options, depending on the students' needs and readiness. Some homework assignments may be due immediately, while others may be short and/or long range, in order to provide students the opportunity to plan and budget their time.
- b) Homework tasks should relate to current grade/class level appropriate instructional objectives, be clear, relevant and reflective of actual district curriculum, and in line with state standards. To ensure proper understanding of the assignment, homework assignments should be explained and may be started during class and completed outside the classroom.
- c) Homework assignments will be monitored, and may be formally and explicitly a part of each student's grades. All aspects of homework are considered important, including completion, quality, accuracy, and effort.
- d) Students with excused absence are allotted the same number of days of the absence to complete work.
- e) Homework shall not be given as punishment.
- f) Students assigned to complete homework tasks in study group settings must have clear guidelines for distribution of team responsibilities. Students should not be penalized for group members not completing assigned tasks. One hundred percent of the student's grade should not be dependent on the group grade.
- g) Individual or group long term projects shall not be exclusively assigned over breaks or due the week immediately following a break.
- h) The homework plan should include the procedures and general timelines by which the homework will be reviewed, corrected and returned to students.

### **CABRILLO'S EXCELLENT HOMEWORK/TUTOR HELP AFTER SCHOOL**

Since some students complain that they do not understand an assignment, lack a quiet place to study, or do not receive help with homework at home, Cabrillo has developed an after-school study center as part of the Prop 49 program as well as a Homework Center for struggling students to help students complete their work. We know that schools that instituted Homework Centers after school see a large decrease in late or missing homework, as well as a reduction in the number of F grades earned by students.

## **CABRILLO FAMILIES SUPPORT HOMEWORK COMPLETION**

Cabrillo staff asks parents to facilitate homework completion, not teach content. Parent-supported homework should help students become self-directed self-disciplined and independent learners, thus improving their immediate learning as well as their long-term academic achievement.

Parents should provide a consistent time and place in the home for children to complete homework. Parents understand are not expected to be content experts. If a student needs help with content, that's a sign that the homework assignment may be too difficult.

### **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- The resources available to pupils should influence the amount and nature of the homework assigned.
- If a student is unable to complete an assignment due to lack of understanding of the work, the parent is encouraged to write a note/email to the teacher explaining why the assignment was not completed. The teacher will explain further, after which the student can be expected to complete the assignment

### **COMMUNICATION PLAN**

Teachers will communicate homework expectations to families :

- Teachers will provide information on homework expectations at Back to School Night
- The school purchased agendas for students in grades 3-6 to be used by teachers and parents to communicate daily.
- Teachers will communicate individual plans via Teachers Website and via classroom newsletters.
- Homework information will also be communicated at PTA, SSC/SELAC and other parent meetings.

### **STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITY**

- Be aware of assignments and seek further explanation if needed.
- Organize his/her time to work on assignments.
- Turn assignments in on time.
- Turn in assignments reflecting high standards of quality and completeness

Homework is the out-of-class tasks that a student is assigned as an extension of classroom work. Three types are commonly assigned in the United States: practice, preparation, and extension (LaConte 1981).

#### Practice Assignments

Practice assignments reinforce newly acquired skills or knowledge. Students who have learned about a particular chemical reaction, for instance, may be asked to find examples of the reaction in their own environment. These assignments are most effective when carefully evaluated by the teacher, when matched to the ability and background of the individual student, and when students are asked to apply recent learning directly and personally.

### Preparation Assignments

Intended to provide background information, these assignments can include readings in the class text, library research, collecting materials for a class demonstration, and other activities requiring the gathering or organizing of information before a class discussion or demonstration.

Effective preparation includes guidelines on why and how the assignment should be completed. In addition, accurately estimating a task's level of difficulty and coordinating the assignment of difficult homework among various courses may help teachers avoid overburdening students.

### Extension Assignments

These assignments encourage individualized and creative learning by emphasizing student initiative and research. Frequently long-term, continuing projects that parallel class work; extension assignments require students to apply previous learning.

	<b>READING/LA</b>	<b>READING/LA</b>	<b>SCIENCE</b>	<b>MATH</b>	<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>					
<b>TUESDAY</b>					
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>					
<b>THURSDAY</b>					
<b>FRIDAY</b>					