

Springbrook Homework Plan

Foundational Beliefs

1. Homework must be purposeful and the purpose should be clearly communicated.
2. Homework should be completed independently unless otherwise indicated by the classroom teacher; students should be assuming responsibility for homework so that they can engage in self-reflection and assess their own needs.
3. Homework assignments should reflect differentiated classroom instruction.
4. If factored into the grade, homework shall remain a reasonable percentage of the class grade.
5. Homework assignments should be reasonable in scale.
6. Homework is not the sole means by which to enrich or extend learning, and teachers may elect to assign or not to assign homework based on the instructional objectives and the needs of their students.
7. Schools should facilitate articulation regarding homework between teachers that includes coordination between courses and grade levels.
8. Teachers should provide some form of timely feedback regarding the work assigned.
9. Schools should facilitate open communication between teachers and families regarding the work assigned.

Homework Policy Springbrook Elementary School

The homework assignments at Springbrook Elementary are designed to reinforce the skills and concepts that are taught in the classroom, develop a sense of responsibility, encourage self-discipline and extend each child's ability to study independently. Homework may be a page of work, a project, or an activity. Homework supports deeper knowledge, reflections, and practice of enduring learning.

Message Points for Elementary Students

Do your best. Ask questions when you don't understand how to complete the homework. Ask questions when you don't understand the purpose of the homework. When you are completing a homework assignment, try to focus just on that assignment. Share your learning with your parents and your teachers.

Message Points for Parents/Guardians

- Homework should provide opportunities for students to practice, adapt and shape what they have learned.
- Homework should provide clear instructional objectives.
- Homework should be meaningful and contribute to lifelong learning.
- Homework load should allow for inclusion of other activities and balance.
- Homework should be done independently with appropriate assistance from parents or peers unless explicitly directed otherwise by teacher.
- Homework should empower children to become independent learners.

We Encourage Parents To:

- Establish a time and place that enables your child to focus solely on homework.
- Communicate concerns and/or questions directly to the teacher in a positive, proactive way to establish an effective home to school partnership.
- Help your child make reasonable, balanced, and responsible course choices.
- Monitor and support student homework time.
- Recognize that each student learns differently.
- Discuss with your child how to limit, during homework time, the use of social networking sites, games, and other technological distractions.

The amount of time spent on homework can vary with the individual child, the grade level of the child, and the type of assignment. However, in general terms, primary students should be spending between 15 and 30 minutes doing their homework nightly and upper grade students may spend as much as 60-90 minutes. Each fall at the parent conferences, homework can be individualized based on the students' needs. Springbrook teachers have many strategies to help families with homework so that the child understands the need for homework and it is not a source of frustration.

We feel that students should balance academics with outside activities such as arts, sports, community service and other family events. We also believe that homework should not cause stress or anxiety for students or parents. We hope that homework is enjoyable and leads to motivation of academic endeavors.

Reading for enjoyment, fiction and non-fiction, magazines, books, or appropriate student websites, should be encouraged beyond homework time.

The homework is reviewed by the teacher in a timely manner and the teacher will give the student appropriate feedback. Homework completion is reflected on the report card under work habit and effort.

Education Codes

1. For each school, notification to parents/guardians that no student may have his/her grade reduced or lose academic credit for any excused absence when missed assignments and tests are satisfactorily completed within a reasonable period of time. Such notification shall include the full text of Education Code 48205. (Education Code 48980)
2. For each school, notification to parents/guardians that the teacher of any class from which a student is suspended may require the student to complete any assignments and tests