

Standards-based Grades and Homework

In our standards-based district, student achievement is evaluated based on a child's understanding of the standards outlined in each grade level curriculum guide. We no longer measure students against other students.

The "grades" on our report cards reflect what a student knows and can do in relation to those grade level standards.

Progress made toward the standards is reported separately from the student's behavior, completion of homework assignments, and other work/study habits.

Why is this important?

Grades based on curriculum standards become triggers for action. Standards-based grading helps teachers to plan their instruction so that they can challenge and support all students at their individual level. It also helps parents to know the academic areas in which a student meets or exceeds expectations, needs a challenge or needs support.

Keeping progress on standards separate from work habits allows teachers and parents to have a clearer picture of a student's progress as they move through the K-8 curriculum.

HOMWORK PROCEDURES

TEACHER RESPONSIBILITIES

- * Schedule daily, weekly, and/or long-term assignments that are meaningful and useful to support the student's total learning experience and aligned to the Homework policy and guidelines.
- * Provide written communication to parents or guardians regarding homework expectations.
- * Assist students in developing routines to ensure that they can meet their responsibilities outlined below.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- * Make sure you understand assignments before leaving school.
- * Take home all necessary homework and materials you will need to complete homework.
- * Have an organized means of keeping and carrying homework to and from school.
- * Do your homework as carefully and neatly as in-school work.
- * Complete homework on time and budget time for long-term projects.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- * Assist your student in developing good study habits and provide a specific time and place for study, free of television and other distractions.
- * Develop a routine to ensure that your student can meet his or her homework responsibilities outlined above.
- * Promptly communicate concerns or questions regarding homework to your child's teacher.

HOMework BY DESIGN

PARENTS' GUIDE



✿ HOMEWORK AT HAWTHORN ✿

Hawthorn teachers give students work to do at home that is meaningful practice of the skills learned in school. This work is meant to promote deeper understanding of our curriculum.

What should students be doing for homework?

Robert Marzano, a leading educational expert, identifies the main purposes of homework:

1. Practice - Students must attain independence in a learned skill. This kind of homework increases speed and accuracy.
2. Preparation - When students make connections in their learning, they retain information for a longer time. This type of homework would ask students to reflect on previous learning, or think about what they would like to learn about a new topic.
3. Extension - These kinds of assignments allow students to express new learning in creative and varied ways.
4. Study - Students may be asked to review key information contained in notes and assignments. This kind of study helps students to put information into their long-term memory.

I like a teacher who gives you something to take home and think about besides homework.

-Lilly Tomlin

Why is homework good for our students?

- * It gives students an opportunity to apply new skills in different contexts.
- * It promotes responsibility and helps to develop good work habits.
- * It offers parents and other family members the opportunity to get involved in their student's life at school.
- * Research shows that a moderate amount of homework may increase student achievement (10 minutes per night, per grade).



Hawthorn District #73 Homework Policy

Homework is considered to be a supplementary component for the learning process for students in grades K-8 at Hawthorn schools.

Although students may not be assigned formal homework assignments at the elementary level, please encourage your students to **read and/or write for 20 minutes each night. Please use some of this time, or additional time, to read to your child.**

Suggested guidelines for assigned homework are:

Grades K-2: 10-20 minutes per night

Grades 3-5: 30-50 minutes per night

Grades 6-8: 60 minutes per night

If for any reason, your student is consistently exceeding these recommended guidelines for homework, please contact the teacher to talk about the situation. It is difficult for teachers to estimate how long it will take some students to complete assignments and often adjustments can be made in order to make homework appropriate.