



A NOTE ABOUT HOMEWORK

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We at St. Teresa would like to take a moment to inform you about homework and how homework will be approached at St. Teresa again this year.

We believe that homework is an essential part of a student's education, and that it does help increase student achievement.

We believe homework should:

- Be a shared commitment among teachers, students, and parents
- Provide parents with insight into what their child is learning
- Provide parents with an opportunity to be actively involved in their child's education
- Teach students responsibility, and self-discipline
- Instill the kinds of work habits and organizational skills that students need to be successful in school and later in the work place
- Encourage lifelong learning and extend learning beyond the school
- Extend and support in-school experiences through related out-of-school activities

According to current research(eg. Marzano), homework should serve three purposes:

- 1) To complete an activity/task that has been started at school and is to be completed at home.
- 2) To practice a skill that the student is just learning(eg. adding two digit numbers with regrouping)
- 3) In some instances, to become familiar with a topic or skill that will be discussed in class the next day (eg. visiting a website if possible to become familiar with electrical circuits-grade 6)

As well, the overall purpose of homework in the early years/primary grades is that of building homework routines(eg. home reading books).

As students get older (junior and intermediate), expectations for homework rise to those listed above. The main portions of assigned projects will be completed and assessed in class. Teachers may indicate that parents/guardians can help with specific aspects of a project (eg. finding magazine pictures for a collage, helping to type a final draft, etc.), but only in those sections in which student learning will NOT be assessed.

Responsibilities

Students need to be responsible for their learning by:

- Writing down homework in an agenda book
 - Asking for assistance when necessary
 - Completing the assigned work
- Meeting timelines for homework completion
- Developing a homework routine/study habits
- Locating appropriate resources and materials
- Organizing to have the right books at home to do the homework
- Returning the completed assignments (including signed tests) on time

- Having a parent/guardian sign the agenda daily

Parents should assist their child by:

- Asking each day about homework
- Ensuring students read every night
- Having the necessary materials and resources available
 - Providing support and supervision if necessary
 - Encouraging effort, achievement and a positive attitude
- Helping students organize homework routines, a time, and a quiet place to do the work
 - Discussing the homework assignments with their child
 - Signing the student's agenda daily once the homework has been completed
 - Providing a consequence when homework is not complete

Teachers will support students and parents by:

- Establishing a place in the classroom where homework is written down
 - Providing time for students to copy homework into their agendas
- Assigning homework with respect to the 3 indicators listed above, according to student needs
 - Checking the completion of homework
 - Following up with students and contacting parents when necessary
 - Coordinating a variety of homework
 - Monitoring the amount of homework
 - Ensuring homework and tests have been corrected

By following the 3 indicators above, your child may come home with little or no homework some evenings. You can always provide reading and writing activities as a parent, and there are numerous websites and educational stores that you can purchase additional materials if you feel necessary. Listed below are some additional ideas if your child doesn't have homework assigned from school on a particular evening:

Visit the local public library

Read to one another and ask questions about what you are reading

Play board games with a literacy(eg. Junior Scrabble) or numeracy(eg. Monopoly) theme

Discuss school activities

Review calendar concepts

Discussing TV and newspaper stories

Additional word study practise

Journal entries

Review of previously completed homework/classwork

Researching items of interest from class(library, internet, etc.)

We at St. Teresa believe that a balance between school, homework, family time and outside interests is very important to the cognitive, social, and affective development of each of our students. We look forward to continuing to work with you in a partnership which provides the best learning environment for all students.

Thank-you,

B. Goodyear
Principal
St. Teresa

