

## Alexandra School Homework Policy

**Philosophy:** Using Ontario Curriculum Documents, recent homework research, and the “Framework for Assessment and Evaluation,” Alexandra staff has developed the following philosophy around homework:

- Since all assessment and evaluation will be based on students’ independent work completed at school, little or no homework will be assigned.
- An exception is school work that is not completed during school hours (it generally consists of: finishing incomplete work from the day but, at times could include reading, enhancing details on projects/work done at school, studying for tests, etc...), assuming that classroom time has been used wisely by the student.

We understand that many families support and value the concept of homework, may we suggest the following in lieu of school assigned homework:

- reading (for at least 20 minutes)
- math practice
- bringing home duotangs and/or books to discuss current studies in school
- current events
- enhancing assigned projects
- reviewing notes for upcoming tests
- using the school website for teacher suggestions

### Recommended Homework/Study Time

**If** homework has been assigned, teachers at Alexandra have done so with the following time guidelines in mind:

Primary 1 – 3 ..... 15-30 minutes nightly

Grades 4 - 6 ..... 30-45 minutes nightly

### Homework ...

- ★ **complements** curriculum learning expectations (the knowledge and skills students must acquire to be successful) and assists students in the completion of daily class work and their assigned homework. (i.e. math exercises, note-taking, good copies, etc.)
- ★ **reinforces** classroom learning (practice drills, study skills, review)
- ★ **needs to be monitored** and checked consistently by teachers (daily use of agenda, consequences for incomplete work)
- ★ **contributes towards assessment** and evaluation of student progress
- ★ **includes daily reading** (novel studies, research, use of public libraries, reading for pleasure)
- ★ **needs to be fair and equitable** (all students should have equal access to resources they need to complete homework)

### Homework and Study Tips:

- ◆ Decide on a location in your house that will always be your homework and study spot.
- ◆ Decide on a time of day that works best for you to complete your work and stick to it!
- ◆ Ensure that you have a complete set of notes from which to study.
- ◆ If you don't, borrow another student's notebook and get caught up.
- ◆ Divide big assignments up into smaller chunks and complete each section on a different night. Don't leave it for the last minute to complete.
- ◆ Keep the television off during homework/study time.
- ◆ Check with your teacher to make sure that you have completed all assignments.
- ◆ Make sure that you are organized - bring home the materials you need from school each night.
- ◆ Use your agenda to keep you organized!

### **ROLE OF STUDENTS**

Select a good place to do homework and have the necessary materials.

- ◆ Set some achievable goals and manage your time well to achieve them.
- ◆ Schedule your homework time and stick to it. Use the agenda planner daily!
- ◆ Post a monthly calendar near your study area with important due dates.
- ◆ Be responsible for yourself:
  - a. know what homework has been assigned and record it in your agenda
  - b. ask questions *before you go home* to make sure you understand what to do
  - c. plan for some review and study time
- ◆ Speak to the teacher prior to class when problems with homework occur.

### **ROLE OF PARENTS**

- ◆ Please review your child's agenda daily!
- ◆ Help your child find an appropriate study area. (e.g. a place where interruptions will be minimal and where the atmosphere is conducive to a concentrated / focussed effort)

- ◆ Help with creating a timetable and setting of priorities.
- ◆ Spend some time with your child but let him/her do the actual work.
- ◆ Ensure that unedited, unmarked work is returned to school.
- ◆ Call or write a note if homework presented problems or could not be completed.
- ◆ Provide opportunities for your child to talk about school by asking specific questions which require explanations rather than "Nothing" or "Yes/No" replies. (e.g. 'What are you studying in Science at the moment?')
- ◆ Praise / encourage accomplishments. Note that some children choose to spend prolonged periods of time on topics of particular interest..
- ◆ Encourage and promote the importance of reading and learning at home. Research clearly shows that reading to and with your child has long term benefits.
- ◆ If your child is absent from school for a period of time please ensure there is appropriate follow-up for any assignments missed.

### **ROLE OF THE TEACHER**

- ◆ Teach students the skills required to study effectively (e.g. schedule planning, note-taking, partnering, memory helpers, use of student planners, time management, etc.)
- ◆ Monitor student agendas.
- ◆ Vary homework assignments to include practice, preparation for upcoming topics/events, extension assignments and creative applications.
- ◆ Inform parents of upcoming topics, important dates and when homework responsibilities have been neglected. Communication is on- going.
- ◆ Check homework on a regular basis and provide student with feedback.
- ◆ Offer remedial assistance beyond regular class time.

Teachers, parents/guardians and students are all partners in the homework process!