

# **Canton Public School District**

## **Homework Policy for Elementary and Secondary Schools**

### **I. Homework Philosophy**

The School Board of Canton Public Schools recognizes regular, purposeful homework as an essential component of the instructional process in Canton Public Schools. Homework is an integral factor in fostering the academic achievement of students and in extending school activities into the home and the community. Regular homework provides opportunities for developmental practice, the application of skills already learned, the development of independent study skills, enrichment activities, and self-discipline. Homework should provide reinforcement and extension of class instruction, and should serve as a basis for further study and preparation for future class assignments. In light of the major purposes for homework, it is not to be assigned as punishment for students for disciplinary reasons.

Responsibility for homework should gradually increase for students in grades one through five. Secondary school homework assignments should recognize that more time and individual student initiative are expected in order to meet increased instructional demands. Homework assignments to exceptional students should reflect the special needs of such students.

In general, homework assignments will be completed for the following day; however, long-range assignments and/or special projects should provide students with an opportunity to develop and refine research and independent study skills and the ability to work independently. Teachers should review evidence of progress periodically before the student submits a long-range assignment.

### **II. Homework Grade Calculations**

Homework will be included in the term and semester grade calculations based on the following percentages:

<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Calculations</b>
Elementary (K-5)	10% Homework Grades 40% Daily Grades 50% Test Grades
Secondary (6-12)	10% Homework Grades 30% Daily Grades 60% Test Grades

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**III. Frequency and Quantity of Homework Assignments**

Teachers and students will be required to maintain a homework portfolio that consists of homework assignments, resources to support the completion of homework including sample problems and examples. As part of the district literacy effort, teachers will include extra reading as a component of the recommended daily homework routine (4 days per week; Monday through Thursday for all core courses). As part of the implementation of the Common Core State Standards, we want students to read both fiction and nonfiction texts. We know that the amount of time it takes each student to complete homework will vary. The following chart indicates what we might suggest as approximately the appropriate amount of time for children in each grade to spend on homework.

<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Extra Reading*</b>	<b>Written Homework*</b>	<b>Total Minutes*</b>
Kindergarten	10 minutes	10 minutes	20 minutes
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	15 minutes	15 minutes	30 minutes
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	20 minutes	15 minutes	35 minutes
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	20 minutes	20-25 minutes	40-45 minutes
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	20-30 minutes	25-30 minutes	45-60 minutes
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	25-30 minutes	35-40 minutes	60-70 minutes
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	30-35 minutes	40-45 minutes	70-80 minutes
7 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	30-35 minutes	45-50 minutes	75-85 minutes
9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	30-35 minutes	90-115 minutes	120-150 minutes

\*approximate times

Reading is recognized as a universal skill that is related to all subjects. Therefore, when the written homework assignment is completed, every student will read, minimally, for the amount of time specified in this board policy. Kindergarten teachers shall exercise judgment in making homework assignments, considering the child’s readiness level and the type of work to be accomplished. It is recommended that parents/guardians read aloud to their children.

**IV. Stakeholder Responsibilities**

Teachers shall consider the following factors when making homework assignments:

1. The grade level of the student
2. Level and degree of difficulty of the subject being studied
3. The maturity level of the student
4. The instructional needs of the student

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5. The purpose of the assignment and its relation to the objectives of the course under study
6. The length of the assignment and the amount of time that will be required to complete it
7. Homework demands being made in other subject areas
8. Materials that are readily available to students and do not create a financial burden
9. Evaluation of group projects based on individual student participation
10. Require students to maintain a homework portfolio and check it daily

It is the responsibility of the school staff to assure quality and value in homework through making assignments which are:

1. An outgrowth of classroom instruction
2. Clear and definite in purpose
3. Clearly related to the objectives, competencies and standards being pursued in the classroom
4. Maintained in a homework portfolio

Principals will be responsible for:

1. Communicating the School Board Policy on homework to staff members, students, and parents/guardians
2. Reviewing the School Board Homework Policy with the total school staff
3. Encouraging parents/guardians to communicate with the school if a student's homework assignments are excessive or not sufficiently challenging to the student, according to the parents'/guardians' views
4. Monitoring the implementation of the homework policy
5. Emphasizing reading as an integral part of the school's homework policy
6. Ensuring that teachers check homework portfolios

Teachers will be responsible for:

1. Teaching independent study skills
2. Making specific assignments
3. Checking, reviewing, evaluating, and/or grading student homework, according to the teacher's individual methods, in keeping with a system that is clearly explained to the class
4. Giving feedback on homework assignments in a timely manner
5. Making instructions related to homework clear and providing, when necessary, a short period of supervised study or a period of questioning to insure that the students understand the assignment
6. Assigning students homework that includes at least the minimum amount of required minutes devoted to reading
7. Checking homework portfolios daily

Students will be responsible for:

1. Completing assigned homework as directed
2. Returning homework to the teacher by the designated time

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3. Submitting homework assignments which reflect careful attention to detail and quality of work
4. Devoting at least the minimum amount of required minutes to reading as part of the homework assignment
5. Maintaining a homework portfolio

Parents'/Guardians' responsibilities include:

1. Providing continued interest and concern for the child's successful performance in school through encouraging and supporting the child in his/her performance on homework assignments
2. Indicating an interest about assignments and assisting, if possible, when requested by the child, but not to include performing the work for the child
3. Supporting the school in regard to the students' being assigned homework and provide a designated space and time to complete assignments
4. Requesting assignments for students when short term absences are involved
5. Assisting the school in stressing the importance of reading and its benefits
6. Assuring that students read for a period of at least the required number of minutes each day in addition to any other assigned homework
7. Checking the homework portfolio daily to ensure that assignments are completed

Parents or other family members should, however, make every effort to read to students who cannot read on their own during the assigned homework period. It is the school's responsibility to make instructions related to homework clear and to provide, when necessary, a short period of supervised study or a period of questioning to ensure that the students understand assignment.