



Oliver Hoover Elementary School 2019-2020 Homework Policy



Homework is any activity or assignment directed by the teacher to be performed outside the classroom that may include practicing knowledge or skills learned in class. Research indicates the following:

- Elementary grade homework should focus on establishing study habits and learning skills.
- The amount of homework increases significantly as a student progresses through school.
- Homework should be necessary and useful, appropriate to the ability and maturity level of students, well explained and motivational, and clearly understood by students and parents.
- Homework should have a clear purpose, be tied to current subject matter, assigned in amounts and levels of difficulty which students can complete successfully and should be checked quickly, with feedback to students.
- Giving homework on a regular basis may increase achievement and improve attitudes toward learning.

As such, homework is important to student learning at Oliver Hoover Elementary School, and the purpose of this Homework Plan is to guide teachers, parents and students in ensuring that homework is meaningful and supports the learning experience of all students.

Homework can be assigned for different purposes: (1) to PREPARE information or materials for future learning activities (e.g. gather resources, read something for a class discussion, or rehearse for a presentation), (2) to PRACTICE new knowledge or skills (e.g. read for pleasure, practice physical skills, practice a musical instrument, use knowledge to complete a project, or practice basic literacy and math skills.), and/or (3) to ENRICH students' understanding of a topic and apply it in new ways (e.g. research local news, investigate a science experiment, write daily or weekly reflections in a journal, or apply skills to a class project).

Teacher Guidelines

- Review, discuss and return, if collected, homework in a timely manner.
- Whenever possible, communicate and coordinate assignments so that students do not receive an overload of homework.
- Explain homework assignments to the students prior to the assignment. Teachers shall communicate homework assignments in at least one of the following ways: send a packet home, write assignment on the board, require students to record it, and/or make available through emails, websites or hotlines. The use of a variety of strategies is encouraged.
- Teach techniques that can help students allocate their time wisely, meet their deadlines, and develop good personal study habits.
- Communicate with parents to inform them about homework expectations, policies, and procedures.
- Communicate ways in which parents can best assist their children in doing homework independently.
- Communicate with parents at the earliest possible opportunity once the student has demonstrated consistent inability to complete homework.
- Coordinate homework assignments so they are spread out amongst the different classes and not assigned during school breaks.

*Homework assignments (with the exception of projects) should not be part of the students' Academic grade; however, homework assignments can be part of the Effort grade.

Parent Guidelines

- Provide a quiet space and basic materials for homework completion.
- Teach techniques that can help children allocate their time wisely, meet their deadlines, and develop good personal study habits.
- Monitor time management and productivity.
- Review school provided materials (for example Binder Reminder, class handouts, and/or online resources).
- Communicate with teachers at the earliest possible opportunity once the child has demonstrated consistent inability to complete homework. If necessary, parents shall attempt to reach accommodation with their child's teachers regarding homework.

Student Guidelines

- Complete homework as assigned.
- Record homework when assigned in class by the teacher.
- Seek clarification and assistance from teachers when unclear about homework.
- Use class time provided for completing classwork and/or starting homework.

Homework Time Expectations

The recommended minutes include assignments for all subject areas and teachers collectively per school day:

- Grade K-1: thirty (30) minutes
- Grades 2-3: forty-five (45) minutes
- Grades 4-5: sixty (60) minutes

Additionally, students are expected to read independently for 30 minutes daily.

Make-Up Work

Students who miss school work because of an excused absence shall be given the opportunity to complete all assignments and tests that can be reasonably provided. As determined by the teacher, the assignments and tests shall be reasonably equivalent to, but not necessarily identical to, the assignments and tests missed during the absence. Students shall receive full credit for work satisfactorily completed within three (3) school days upon the return to school. After successful completion of all make-up assignments, the student cannot be penalized for that absence. **Please note that parent/guardian must request make-up assignments. Failure to make-up all assignments will result in lower assessment of the student's academic and/or effort grade.**

Excused absences include the following:

- **Student Illness** – Parent note is sufficient; however, students missing five (5) or more consecutive days of school due to illness or injury are required to provide a written statement from a healthcare provider. The written statement must include all days the student has been absent from school.
- **Medical Appointments** – A written statement from healthcare provider indicating the date and time of the appointment must be submitted.
- **Death in Family**
- **Religious Holiday** (only holidays on District's approved list are excused)
- **Subpoena by Law Enforcement Agency or mandatory court appearance**

All absences that do not fall into one of the above excused categories are to be considered UNEXCUSED (i.e. vacations, trips out of the country, illness of others, etc.).

ALL UNEXCUSED ABSENCES WILL RESULT IN A ZERO (0) BEING ISSUED FOR ANY WORK MISSED ON THE DAY OF THE UNEXCUSED ABSENCE.