

MSAD#9 Homework Policy

MSAD#9 recognizes the importance of developing good study habits and responsibility for assignments beginning at an early age. At the same time, it also recognizes the importance of learning acquired by children outside of school, through reading and listening, physical activity, and play, and the needs of children for free time to engage in these learning activities.

All homework assignments shall be for sound educational purposes. Homework properly designed, carefully planned, and geared to the development of the individual students, meets a real need and has a definite place in the educational program. It is assigned to help the student become more self-reliant, learn to work independently, improve the skills that have been taught, and complete certain projects such as reading of worthwhile books and the preparation of research papers. Home study assignments also afford a way for parents to acquaint themselves with the school program and their own children's educational progress.

1. To be effective, homework should:

- a. be understood by the child,
- b. be a regular part of the instructional program,
- c. meet individual needs of the child or study group,
- d. reinforce and extend classroom instruction,
- e. develop study skills,
- f. be carefully evaluated by the teacher, and
- g. be encouraged by parents.

2. Realistically, teacher time is limited, but assignments should be made with individual differences among students in mind. Parents should be encouraged to contact the child's teacher(s) and make adjustments by mutual consent if a child is working to his full capacity and is still unable to consistently finish assignments within the given time limits. Homework should never become such a burden that a child who is putting forth his best effort becomes defeated by it.

3. Homework assignments shall be worthy of the time necessary for being corrected and discussed by the teacher with the individual student and class.

4. A variety of approaches, activities, and techniques should be used by teachers when assigning homework, and reflect a balance from the basic categories of homework:

- Preparation homework
- Extension homework
- Creative homework
- Practice homework

5. Emphasis on developing good study habits, both at home and in school, should be given at the beginning of each school year, and on a continuing basis throughout the school year.
6. Teachers should encourage the use of assignment sheets or notebooks.
7. There should be sufficient preparation for each assignment, so that the requirements are clearly understood by all pupils. Ample notice should be given for long-term projects.

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