

HOMWORK POLICY

Homework is one aspect of the general education curriculum that has been widely recognized as important to academic success because it provides additional learning time, strengthens study and organizational skills, and keeps parents informed of their children's progress. This policy has been developed for the guidance of teachers and parents/guardians. It is not intended to be all inclusive or to be specifically definitive. Assignments ordinarily should not require teaching by the parents/guardians. Most of the basic instruction should be done by the teacher. This does not in any way preclude the need for help which can be given by the parents/guardians. Homework should not be the instrument for punishing a student or class group.

There are four general reasons for the assignment of school work to be done at home.

1. To encourage the student to progressively acquire home study techniques that develop independent study habits essential to the individual in a modern society.
2. To meet the need for extra study and drill in those areas in which a student may need reinforcement.
3. To perform work that may be done more effectively in the home than at school.
4. To serve as a means of "make up" for work missed.

It is not the intent of the school to assign an over-abundance of homework so that students are unable to participate in a variety of extra-curricular, religious, or community activities. Homework assignments should be coordinated among teachers and be within the limit of expected probability for accomplishment by the student. General time guidelines for daily homework are:

- 4K and 5K - 0-15 minutes;
- grades 1-2 - 15-30 minutes;
- grades 3-5 - 30-60 minutes; and
- grades 6-8 - 60-90 minutes.

Homework has academic and nonacademic benefits. Certain nonacademic benefits of homework have been shown, especially for younger students. Some primary-level benefits include learning the importance of responsibility, managing time, developing study habits, and staying with a task until it is completed. The purpose of homework for each grade level is listed below.

- 4K-Grade 2 Homework should be introduced at this level in order to encourage parental involvement. Homework should be

planned in accord with individual needs and with teachers conferring with parents/guardians when necessary.

Grades 3-5 Homework should be introduced at this level in order to encourage independent study habits. Homework assignments should be based on the individual needs and abilities of students. Homework assignments must be constructive and reasonable. Special weaknesses of individual students should be considered, including input from parents/guardians when possible.

Grades 6-8 Homework assignments at this level should be both short- and long-range and should be completed on time. Parents/guardians and teachers must work together in the development of independent study habits by checking on student progress and by conferring with each other.

The Linn J4 School District shall not discriminate in the methods, practices, and materials used for assigning homework on the basis of sex, race, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability.

ADOPTED: 08/12/08