

## INSTRUCTION

### Homework – Grades K-12

The purpose of homework is to provide:

- Pre-learning opportunity to organize new information or build interest in an upcoming topic, or unit of study;
- Practice for applying new knowledge and skill;
- Revisit knowledge and concept for review; and
- Prepare for an upcoming assessment.

### Guidelines:

- I. Homework, when assigned, will be incorporated as a meaningful component of the instructional program.
- II. To promote well rounded students and to acknowledge and encourage learning in many forms outside of school, teachers are strongly encouraged to avoid assigning homework over weekends, during holidays, and/or religious observances.

Homework shall not be assigned over Thanksgiving break, the winter holiday, and spring break (dates determined by the School Division calendar). During these breaks, students may be working on previously assigned long-term projects, but no assignment or summative assessment shall be required to be completed within the first two days following the break. This requirement is mandatory for all grade levels and all classes.

- III. At all levels, teachers assigning daily reading (both fiction and nonfiction) for homework is strongly encouraged. Expected reading time should be included when calculating total time amounts assigned for homework. Based on the guideline chart below, in kindergarten through second grade, reading should be the main and most frequent type of homework. In third through fifth grade, the guideline chart provides time for reading and another activity, which is short in duration.
- IV. Homework assignments will be based on the teacher's assessment of the student's abilities and instructional needs. Teachers will use professional judgment in assigning homework so that it may be completed in a reasonable amount of time. Guidelines to assist teachers with time allotments are as follows:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Daily Guidelines</u>
K	Monday - Thursday	10 to 20 minutes (Teachers encourage parents/guardians to either read to their child or listen to their child read. Teachers may also provide parents/guardians with activities to follow up their child's learning in other content areas.
1-2	Monday - Thursday	10 to 20 minutes
3-5	Monday - Thursday	30 to 50 minutes
6-8	Monday - Thursday	60 to 80 minutes
9-12	Monday - Thursday	1 1/2 to 2 hours

At the middle and high school level the total daily amount of homework needs to be divided out amongst all the student's classes for that day. Major homework assignments and projects should be coordinated between teachers and departments to avoid undue time requirements on students.

- V. The use of homework in determining grades will be communicated to students and parents at the beginning of the school year.
- VI. Homework will be reviewed and returned with feedback.
- VII. While students enrolled in advanced classes should anticipate increased expectations on independent work, their homework parameters should not fall outside of this regulation.
- VIII. Parents/guardians who experience homework times for their child that consistently exceed the guidelines in this regulation are strongly encouraged to discuss this concern with their child's teacher, school counselor, and/or principal.
- IX. Nothing in this regulation prohibits a teacher, on a case-by-case basis, from differentiating homework assignments for an individual student based on his/her specific needs. Modifications related to this provision should be made in partnership with the parent/guardian.

The Associate Superintendent for Student Learning and Accountability (or designee) is responsible for implementing and monitoring this regulation.

The Associate Superintendent for Student Learning and Accountability (or designee) is responsible for reviewing this regulation in 2018.

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS