

# Santa Barbara Unified School District

## Administrative Regulation

AR 6154

### Instruction

#### HOMEWORK/MAKEUP WORK

The purpose of this regulation is to provide guidance for teachers, parents/guardians and students with regard to homework assignments.

#### Homework and the Individual Student

All students are expected to complete assigned homework. Since the students in any classroom are at varying levels of development in scholastic achievement, study habits and maturity, class work and homework will reflect these individual differences.

For these reasons, it is difficult to regiment the assignment of homework, either in time or in amount. It is important to recognize that any one project or assignment may require varying amounts of time, depending on the concentration, study habits and ability of the student.

It is the responsibility of the student, or parent, to contact the school and/or teachers for makeup assignments needed to be completed due to lengthy absences or extended illnesses. This contact should be made as soon as possible.

#### Student's Responsibilities (K-6)

1. Student is expected to complete assigned homework independently and on time.
2. Student is expected to turn in neat and legible homework..
3. Student will ask teacher for clarification if homework assignment is not clear.
4. Student is encouraged to talk with teacher if homework assignments are too difficult or too easy.
5. Student is expected to show parents/guardians any checked or corrected homework returned by the teacher.

#### Homework and the Parents (K-6)

1. Parents are expected to provide a regular study and/or reading time in a suitable setting with appropriate materials.
2. Parents are encouraged to offer guidance but avoid doing the assignment for the child.
3. Parents are encouraged to provide a balance between homework and the child's free time. If a child consistently does not complete assignments within the recommended time frame (homework is too challenging/not challenging enough), parents/guardians should contact the teacher.
4. Parents are expected to understand the objectives of the school curriculum and the relationship of the homework to these objectives.
5. Parents are expected to ask the child to show/discuss checked or corrected homework.

#### Homework and the Parents (7-12)

Take an active interest in your student's progress and activities in school.

Contact individual teachers or the counselor if problems develop concerning homework.

Provide a regular study and/or reading time in a suitable, well-lighted and quiet place with appropriate materials.

Help the student to budget time for homework, as well as chores, hobbies, school activities, special lessons, jobs and recreation.

Understand the objectives of the school curriculum and the relationship of homework to these objectives.

Offer guidance and suggestions, but resist the temptation to work the problem, write the composition, or do the research.

Encourage the student to ask questions and request assistance of the teacher if an assignment or lesson is not understood.

### **Homework and the Teacher (K-6)**

1. Teacher will communicate homework procedures and expectations to all parents/guardians at the beginning of school each year (i.e., Back to School Night, introductory letter).
2. Teacher will clarify at the beginning of the school year whether parents/guardians are to review and/or assist in correcting homework before it is turned in.
3. Teacher generally will assign homework four days a week. These assignments should not require that the homework be completed over weekends or holidays.
4. Teacher will assign homework that is commensurate with student's abilities so that the homework assignments are neither too challenging nor not challenging enough and can be completed independently.
5. Homework copies will be legible and directions will be clear and understandable to student and/or parent.
6. Homework will be meaningful and relevant to class work.
7. Teacher will help parents/guardians understand the objectives of the school curriculum at Back to School Night and parent/guardian conferences and through distributed standards-based progress reports and district content standards brochure.
8. Homework will be checked or corrected and returned to student in class or sent home. Teacher will review with student homework corrections/comments, if necessary.
9. Teacher will notify parents/guardians when student repeatedly fails to turn in homework on time.
10. Teacher will guide students and parents/guardians to available homework support services, as needed.

### **Homework and the Teacher (7-12)**

Regular evaluation of homework practices will take place as a natural consequence of the grading process in a class.

Teachers will make every effort to ensure that homework assignments are definite and clearly understood.

Credit for homework will be given as it is appropriate to the assignment made.

Teachers can be expected to assign homework that will enrich and reinforce the classroom learning experience.

### **Homework Purpose and the Forms It May Take (K-6)**

1. Promotes independence and responsibility.
2. Provides additional practice/reinforcement of fundamentals.
3. Allows for completion of unfinished class work or assignments missed during absences.
4. Supports and encourages consistent daily reading.
5. May include research/projects in assigned subject areas for which there is insufficient time in class.
6. Keeps parents/guardians informed of current learning in class.

### **Homework and the Forms It May Take (7-12)**

1. Preparation for or follow up to class work.
2. Research in problems and questions arising from classroom lessons.
3. Create activities, such as compositions or projects for which there is insufficient time at school.
4. Further drill on fundamentals when needed.
5. Reading to broaden interest, gain information, and increase vocabulary.
6. Reading to develop a lifelong enjoyment of reading and learning.

### **Homework and Recommended Amounts**

It is expected that a student's homework assignments will increase both in complexity and amount as he/she progresses through the grades from elementary school to the senior year in high school. It is the practice of the Santa Barbara Unified School District to assign consistent and regular amounts of homework.

### **Elementary Schools (Grades K-6)**

Homework assignments will vary in length and difficulty according to the individual student, but generally will take 10-15 minutes daily (kindergarten), 20-30 minutes daily (grades 1-3), and 30-60 minutes daily (grades 4-6). In addition to doing homework assignments, all students are expected to read nightly for a minimum of 20 minutes.

### **Junior High Schools (Grades 7-8)**

1. Special attention should be given by parents/guardians and teachers to supervision of homework for the junior high student as part of the individual's transition from the elementary to the secondary school program.
2. Homework assignments will vary in length and difficulty according to the requirements of the course, but will generally approximate two hours daily for all the subjects.
3. Long-term assignments should have clearly defined steps for completion. The student should begin to assume more responsibility for long-term projects.
4. A minimum of assignments should be made over weekend and holiday periods.
5. It is recommended that all assignments, including date assigned and date due, should be entered by the student in a notebook.
6. Supervised study periods may be provided as an appropriate part of the class time under the direction of the classroom teacher.

### **Senior High Schools (Grades 9-12)**

1. Homework assignments will vary in length and difficulty according to requirements of the course, but will generally approximate three hours daily for all subjects.
2. Homework assignments should increase in complexity and variety from 9th to 12th grade. The student should begin to assume more responsibility for the long-term projects each year.
3. The high school student should be expected to assume full responsibility for budgeting time to complete homework assignments.
4. It is recommended that all assignments, including date assigned and date due, be entered by the student in a notebook.
5. Supervised study periods may be provided as an appropriate part of class time under the direction of the classroom teacher.

SANTA BARBARA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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