



HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS POLICY S-14

Policy Statement

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines and criteria for teachers of Grade K to 9 at Choice School in determining the nature and extent of homework assignments. Teachers must ensure that assigned homework aligns with the understanding of the process of learning, reflects value and purpose and inspires student engagement. Teachers will make a judgement for each individual child as to the benefits of homework, the amount of homework assigned, its scope, and whether a child has a home environment that is supportive of homework completion.

Preamble

The practice of assigning homework has been a topic of debate among educators and parents for decades, and there is limited empirical evidence to guide a definitive perspective. To be of value, an educational practice must be proven to positively affect students’ academic progress, their habits of mind and their social-emotional growth. Our understanding of the nature of learning has evolved significantly in recent years. Educators now recognize that learning is constructive and interactive. To learn effectively, a student must be actively engaged in the task and be aware of its relevance. A teacher’s decision to assign homework should be founded on these understandings.

Procedure for Policy S14 – Homework Expectations

Teachers will communicate a homework policy to parents at the beginning of each school year in a forum that invites parental feedback and discussion. Homework assignments will be designed according to the following criteria:

- The amount of homework is reasonable for the age of the child.
- Students are clearly aware of the value, purpose and process of homework tasks.
- The homework task relates directly to the child’s learning goals.
- The homework task is designed to inspire meaningful student engagement and is not simply “homework for homework’s sake”.
- Parental involvement in homework is invited for the purpose of enhancing the learning. Parents are invited to pose questions that will deepen the child’s understanding, to debate a child’s assumptions and to learn alongside the child.
- The assigned homework promotes intrinsic motivation, curiosity and a desire to learn.