

Sculptor Charter School Homework Guidelines

Purpose

Homework is beneficial to student learning in the right context. Students should either be increasing skill speed, memorizing so the skill becomes rote, deepening an understanding of a concept, or preparing for the following day's learning. Homework should be an independent practice for the student with little to no help from an adult (except for reading to children and large projects). Homework should develop good study habits, be one source of communication between home and school, and promote positive attitudes towards school. Homework should not become a large burden on families and if it is a conversation needs to happen between the parent(s)/guardian and teacher.

Research

Many studies have been done in the past few decades to find out whether or not homework is an effective learning tool. The majority of studies agree that amounts of homework and time spent need to be appropriate for the age/grade level and ability level. The research recognizes that schools must monitor the amount of homework and time to minimize stress on the students and the family, as that can have a negative impact on student performance.

Principal Responsibilities

- Ensure homework is consistent with Sculptor's Core Knowledge curriculum.
- Monitor and support the teachers in the purpose of homework and the implementation of homework guidelines.
- Facilitate the communication process between the school and home and help maintain the parent/school partnership as it relates to homework.

Teacher Responsibilities

- To provide purposeful homework and identify the purpose of homework assignments to parents and students.
- Model homework strategies and provide models as appropriate throughout the school year.
- To provide clear directions and instructions.
- To implement a system of checking and reviewing homework.
- To communicate what is expected for completing homework successfully.
- To communicate with families when students are not consistently completing assignments.
- Discuss homework practices with colleagues and provide guidelines for the type of homework at each grade level.

Student Responsibilities

- To understand all homework assignments by listening to directions, asking questions, and reading directions
- To gather materials needed before leaving the classroom
- To complete all assignments to the best of his/her ability
- To return materials and assignments on time
- To make up any homework the teacher requires

Family Responsibilities

- To provide a routine and environment that is conducive to doing homework (i.e. a quiet and consistent place and time, necessary materials, etc.)
- Clarify directions for the student but homework should be done independently by the student
- To notify the teacher when homework presents a problem (too hard, takes too long, etc.)
- To read school notices and respond in a timely manner. Regular back pack clean ups can be useful in helping students to organize their materials.

Recommended Time Allotted for Homework

At Sculptor Charter School we know that the time it takes each student to complete homework assignments will vary. Also, Sculptor Charter School recognizes the importance of balancing homework with quality, unstructured family time to support academic, social and emotional development. After studying the research on homework, please refer to the following guidelines in the table below for recommended time allotments for homework. If your child **diligently** does his/her homework for the maximum amount of recommended time and does not complete it, you may write a note to your child's teacher explaining the situation. If this becomes an ongoing problem, please make arrangements to talk to the teacher.

In Kindergarten, the homework is for families and children to spend time together with books. Often especially in the beginning of the year, this will mean parents and family members reading aloud to children. As the year progresses and Kindergarten children bring more books from school to home, student may be reading to and with family members.

Table of Recommended Time Allotted for Homework

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Homework</u>
Kindergarten	Families should spend time together reading books - 15 minutes
First	15 minutes
Second	20 minutes
Third	30 minutes
Fourth	40 minutes
Fifth	Up to 50 minutes
Sixth	Up to 60 minutes
Seventh and Eighth	Up to 60 minutes per night on average over a week *Students taking high school courses at Sculptor Charter School can expect to spend more time each night on homework

Conclusion

Meaningful homework is important for students to establish good study skills and to meet learning standards. Open communication between families and teachers about homework and how it affects their student is important to student success.