

SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY - ELEMENTARY AND JUNIOR HIGH LEVELS

Why do students have homework?

Habits of responsibility, planning skills, and organization are valuable traits that will follow your child throughout the school years and life. Extra practice in recently taught skills reinforces learning and aids in retention after leaving the classroom and prepares a student to add new skills going forward. It is our mutual desire and prayer to see the children grow in their natural abilities, developing knowledge, wisdom, and Godly character.

What are the homework expectations?

In all grades where homework is assigned either daily or occasionally, the following general rule should be applied: **ten serious minutes of homework times the child's grade level.** This means ten minutes nightly for grade one up to eighty minutes for grade eight. **Wednesdays are homework light or free nights to allow families to attend mid-week church services.**

*Teachers will assign the total homework load based on this ten-minute general rule. Since each student works at an individual pace, it is recommended that the time be wisely divided between the assignments based on your child's ability and strengths. Your child should work only for the allotted time and complete as much as they are able with diligent effort. **If you find that your child is spending too much time on assignments, you are advised to contact the teacher immediately.**

What are some helpful homework strategies for parents?

Routine...routine...routine!

- A quiet, designated homework location
- A regular, scheduled time each day (early in the evening)
- A prepared, well supplied homework center
- An occasional break offered as a reward for diligence
- An available parent nearby who can clarify directions or give some needed advice

****Short breaks at the end of each assignment for a small snack, drink, or a bit of exercise, is the most beneficial scenario.***

Identifying **problem behaviors** such as messy work, not copying assignments, or leaving books at school can be used in working out a larger incentive system at home. **Set a goal and agree on the consequences and rewards to reach it.** A point system can be very useful in changing or creating new habits. Offer your child some reward choices, and see what works most effectively over time. Let's work together to insure a great and successful education experience!