

Matagorda ISD – Matagorda Elementary
Homework Policy (K-7)

Introduction

Homework at Matagorda ISD is an essential part of the school program. Assignments will vary in accordance to the needs of the class and will relate to classroom instruction. Homework assignments are intended to:

- ✓ Reinforce or provide practice of skills and concepts addressed in class,
- ✓ Extend skills and concepts taught in class,
- ✓ Collect evidence of student understanding and application of what has been taught, and
- ✓ Provide a risk-free opportunity to experiment with and transform new learning.

Completion of routine homework introduces students to developing good work habits, while increasing the opportunity for individual initiative and responsibility. Homework can also stimulate creativity, critical thinking, and awareness that learning can take place outside of the classroom. The guidelines below indicate how students, parents, teachers and administrators all have a responsibility for the success of homework.

Homework Policy Guidelines for Students

- Always do your best work!
- Write down directions for homework on your assignment sheet (4th – 7th graders).
- Understand assignments clearly before leaving class.
- Bring home the proper materials (book, paper, pencil, ruler, etc.) to complete the assignments.
- Hand in completed assignments on time.
- Budget time properly for long-term assignments like a research paper or science project.
- Complete any work missed due to absence from class within 3 class days.
- Understand how homework will affect your class grade.
- Talk to your parents and teacher if you are having difficulty with homework.
- Homework will not be assigned during school vacation except for Accelerated Reading and the completion of missing assignments or projects.

Homework Policy Guidelines for Parents

- Be familiar with the philosophy and guidelines of the homework policy.
- Check your child's designated notebook or folder daily.
- 4th – 7th graders will have an assignment sheet and/or student planner book as well.
- Provide a time and place to do homework assignments with limited interruptions.
- Actively supervise homework completion, assisting, but not doing the work.
- Oversee completion of long-term assignments to assist in understanding time management.
- Contact the teacher with questions or concerns especially if your child exceeds the allotted time frame.
- Homework will not be assigned during school vacation or religious holidays except for Accelerated Reading and the completion of missing assignments or projects.

Homework Policy Guidelines for Teachers

- Accelerated Reading, spelling words, and math practice are homework assigned every day.
- Assign additional homework on a regular basis in keeping with the homework policy.
- Assignments may be on a daily basis or of a long-term type, such as a report or science project.
- Students are to understand clearly all homework assignments before leaving class.
- Require that each student have a system for parents and students to keep track of assignments.
- 4th – 7th grade will have an assignment sheet and/or student planner.

- Homework may take the form of class, group, or individual assignments.
- Group projects should not be assigned as homework, unless students can work on their individual parts independently.
- Teachers should coordinate assignments, tests, and projects with other teachers, as appropriate, to avoid overburdening students.
- Assignments should be discussed, checked, and when appropriate, corrected and returned to students in a timely manner.
- Specific policies/practices of teachers are to be submitted to the principal and clearly communicated to students and parents.
- Teachers have the responsibility to communicate with parents of students who are falling behind in completing homework assignments.
- Homework will not be assigned during school vacation or designated religious holidays except for Accelerated Reading and the completion of missing assignments or projects.

Homework Policy Guidelines for Administrators

- Include this homework policy in all teacher, parent and student handbooks.
- Require teachers to communicate homework policy to students and parents and provide copy to administration.
- Make certain that teachers are implementing the homework policy consistently and uniformly through a designated homework tracking system such as a notebook, folder, assignment sheet, etc.
- Assist teachers, when necessary, in implementing this homework policy.
- Observe use of homework during classroom visits.
- Review homework samples and assignments periodically.
- Give suggestions to teachers, when necessary, on how assignments could be improved.
- Develop homework incentive programs/practices with teachers and parents to assist and enhance homework completion.

Special Considerations

- The resources available to students should be considered as far as the amount and nature of the homework assigned.
- If the student is unable to complete an assignment due to a lack of understanding of the work, the parent is encouraged to write a note/email or call the teacher to explain why the assignment was not completed. The teacher will explain further, after which the student can be expected to complete the assignment.

Online Resources

Online homework resources are posted at our website www.matagordaisd.org under "Educational Links."

Consequences for not completing Homework

1. All work will be finished. It may be made up in a variety of ways, i.e., after school detention, loss of P.E., working meal time, etc.
2. 10 points will be taken off for each day that the assignment is late.
3. Parents will receive a Behavior Infraction form.
4. Students enrolled in extracurricular courses or programs will not be allowed to participate until their work is completed according to instructions.

Time Frame of Homework Assignments

While it is understood that the time it takes to complete homework assignments may vary with each child, the times below are the general guidelines for each grade level. If your child is having difficulty on a consistent basis completing assignments within the time frames established, please contact your child's teacher for assistance.

Daily Homework Time Frame	
Kindergarten	Up to 15 minutes of Accelerated Reading* Up to 10 minutes of spelling word practice
Grade 1	15 minutes of Accelerated Reading* 15 minutes of homework four nights per week, Monday through Thursday
Grade 2	15 minutes of Accelerated Reading* 20 minutes of homework four nights per week, Monday through Thursday
Grade 3	15 minutes of Accelerated Reading* 25 minutes of homework four nights per week, Monday through Thursday
Grade 4, 5, 6, 7	30 minutes of Accelerated Reading* 40-45 minutes of homework four nights per week, Monday through Thursday Students may be required to spend time on the weekends for any long-term assignments or projects.
<p>Students should be encouraged to read for pleasure on weekends and vacations.</p> <p>* Accelerated Reading also includes having adults reading to children.</p> <p>If a student is experiencing difficulty, parents/guardians have the option of signing off at the upper time limit for completing homework, <u>if the student has worked studiously and has produced quality work.</u></p>	