

## HOMEWORK POLICY

The McDowell County Board of Education acknowledges the educational validity of out-of-school assignments as adjuncts to and extensions of the instructional program of the schools.

"Homework" shall refer to those assignments to be prepared outside of the school instructional day by the student.

### Guidelines:

- A. Homework should be a properly planned part of the curriculum, extending and reinforcing the learning experience of the school.
- B. Homework should help students learn by providing practice in the mastery of skills, experience in data gathering, and integration of knowledge, and an opportunity to remediate learning problems. It is not teaching.
- C. Homework should always serve a valid learning purpose; it should never be used as a punitive measure or as part of a student behavioral management system.
- D. Meaningful homework, well assigned, supports the day-to-day learning objectives and instruction by building additional repetitions. Parents should not be required to explain the concepts or processes involved or the procedures to complete the assigned tasks.
- E. Homework should only be given on something already taught except for a reading assignment to be completed in preparation for the next day of class. When assigning reading, correspondent questions to the reading should not be assigned for homework. These are to be assigned the following day.
- F. In all cases, if a teacher deems it necessary to assign homework, it must be used or gone over in class the next class period after it was assigned.
- G. Homework does not have to be completed at home, but may be completed in homeroom, study halls, after-school, etc.

The following total daily homework time allocations are suggested for the different programmatic levels; however, a student's skill level may impact the actual time required to complete assignments.

| Grade Level | Total Minutes | Approximate Minutes per Subject (Based on 5 subjects) |
|-------------|---------------|---|
| 1           | 10-20         | NA  |
| 2           | 20            | NA  |
| 3           | 30            | NA  |
| 4           | 40            | 8   |
| 5           | 50            | 10  |
| 6           | 60            | 12  |
| 7           | 70            | 14  |
| 8           | 80            | 16  |
| 9           | 90            | 18  |
| 10          | 100           | 20  |
| 11          | 110           | 22  |
| 12          | 120           | 24  |

These time and quality guidelines do not account for upcoming major tests, long-term assignments or projects, and other school related activities in which students are engaged.

Completing homework does three basic and important things:

- provides feedback to the teacher and to the student (checking for understanding);
- builds additional repetitions; and
- serves as a significant confidence builder.

Therefore, homework should be given a value based on symbols (checkmarks, stickers, etc.), not a grade. A value added approach will satisfy the student's desire to know whether the homework will count.

Homework can be a very productive instructional strategy and can help develop and foster a positive attitude and healthier work ethic.

References:

WV State Board of Education Policy 2510

Adopted: September 2, 2014