

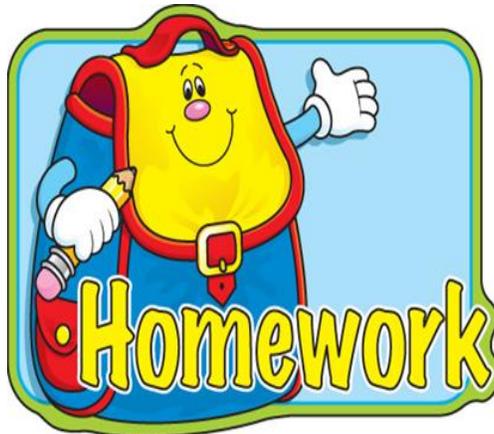
Fabulinus: en-route to knowledge...

Homework has been an integral part of students' lives since the beginning of formal schooling. It is seen as a valuable resource for teaching as it allows children to learn and practice during non-school hours. Today, however, there is disagreement not only about the value of homework but also about whether students are assigned too much of it or too little. We believe these homework assignments should be varied and meaningful, and not rote practice work. This edition of our newsletter will focus on some of the aspects around homework, its benefits and concerns, how parents and teachers can collaboratively contribute to a child's development by effectively designing the homework suiting their child's needs.



The power of homework...

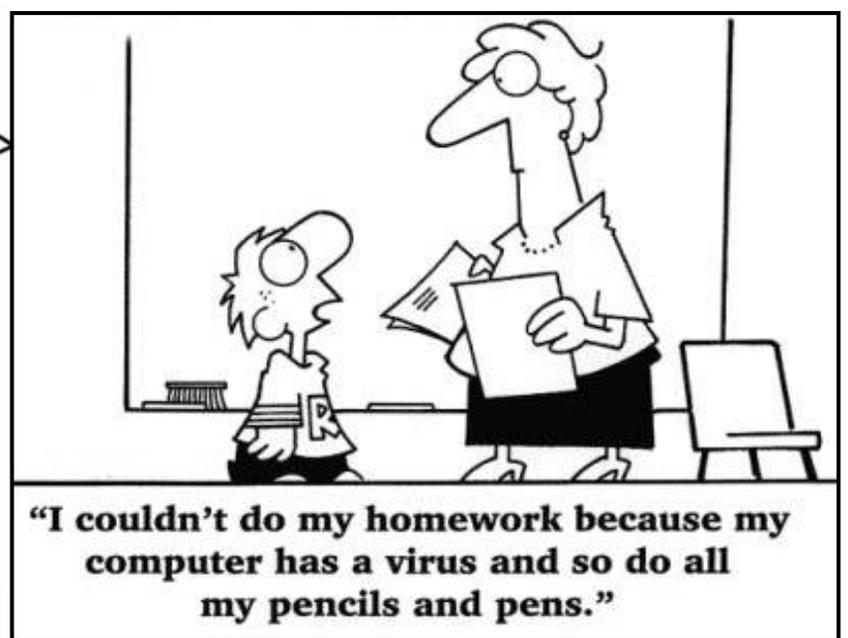
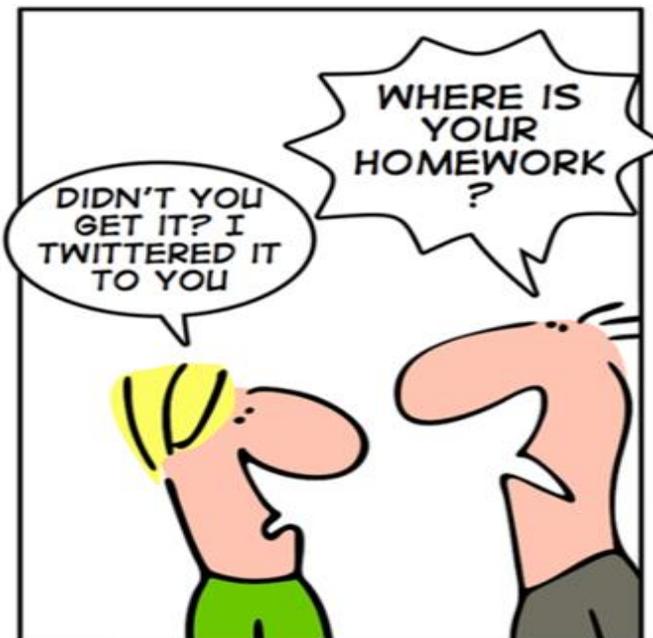
Homework is an important time to make connections and reflect; on self, family, friends, new or familiar information, and the world beyond. It serves as an intellectual discipline, establishes study habits, eases time constraints on the amount of curricular material that can be covered in class, supplements and reinforces work done in school. In addition, it fosters student initiative, independence, and responsibility.



It brings families together and ensures that parents are involved in child's learning processes.

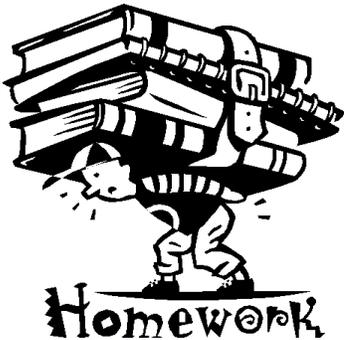
There are three types of homework: practice, preparation, and extension. **Practice assignments** reinforce newly acquired skills. **Preparation assignments** help students get ready for activities that will occur in the classroom. **Extension assignments** are frequently long-term continuing projects that parallel class work.

Don't you have any homework???

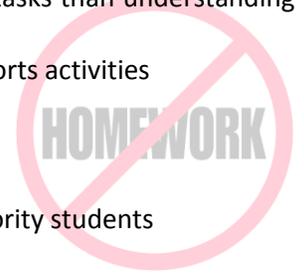


Homework: Effective learning tool or waste of time? The debate continues...

- Encourages critical thinking and mental development
- Increases achievement levels and a sense of satisfaction
- Teaches life lessons such as time management and self-help
- Helps students learn at their own pace independently
- Encourages children to use time wisely
- Allows students to practice, review, and apply knowledge
- Develops stronger critical thinking and problem solving skills
- Helps develop positive study skills and habits that will serve them well throughout life



- Reduces reading as students tend to focus on completion of tasks than understanding the concept behind the tasks
- Eliminates time for other learning, social opportunities and sports activities
- Adds unnecessary stress and burden
- Deflates the joy of learning and play time
- Increases pressure from parents to perform well
- Disproportionately harms economically disadvantaged or minority students
- Increases opportunities for cheating



Parents matter!

Homework helps parents learn more about what their child is learning in school. So, the parents should

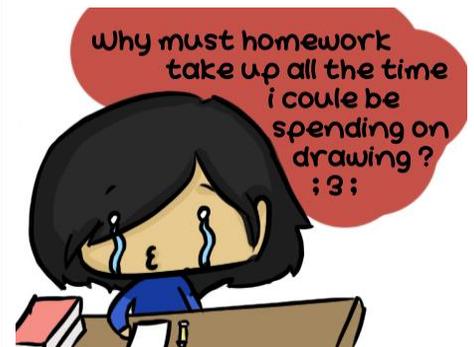
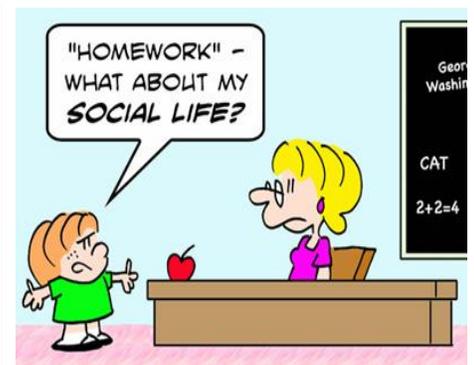
- Help the child learn the process of learning.
- Inculcate in child the habit to follow the same routine every day.
- Help but don't try to do yourself. It is fine for children to make mistakes. Help them learn from it so that they can do it correctly later again.
- Be curious, not critical. Understand a child's attention span, interests and focus areas.
- Get involved in the fun activities that the children are doing and encourage learn-and-play games at home
- D-stress your child while they are doing their homework.



Helping your child... can make a huge difference!

Homework is a formative part of the learning process. For younger children, the benefits of homework come from non-academic areas including developing good study habits, time and routine management, and activity based learning. The following tips will help improve homework skills:

- Parental assistance should be kept minimal.
- Homework should be activity based to make it more enjoyable for children to learn and comprehend the concepts.
- Create a schedule. Sufficient consideration should be given to tasks in the homework for children so that reasonable time is left for anything else such as playing or participating in other activities of interest.
- Set aside regular time and place to do homework.
- Use a timer.
- Praise works wonders! Identify what the children are doing well and let them know that you noticed. Feedback improves the effectiveness of homework, especially when given in a timely manner, normally within 24 hours.
- Show your child that even adults have homework. By sitting down to pay the bills, balance a checkbook, write thank you notes or a letter to a friend, look up recipes, or simply read for pleasure, it will help kids understand that the skills they are learning in school now will be applied in their adult life.



Research says...

- In general, homework has substantial benefits at the high school level, with decreased benefits for middle school students and little benefit for elementary students (Cooper, 1989; Cooper et al., 2006).
- Assigning too much homework can result in poor performance (Fernández-Alonso et al., 2015).
- A student's ability to complete homework may depend on factors that are outside their control (Cooper et al., 2006; OECD, 2014; Eren & Henderson, 2011).
- In US, Mobile Apps, such as myHomework, have been created for provide for Homework reminders, track assignments, submissions and even track classes.
- The goal shouldn't be to eliminate homework, but to make it authentic, meaningful, and engaging (Darling-Hammond & Ifill-Lynch, 2006).

With so many factors influencing homework's efficacy in learning, staying informed of the research and making the best decisions possible with available data may be the greatest steps parents as well as teachers can take to help ensure student learning.



"The 10-Minute Rule"

Kids should be doing about 10 minutes of homework per night per grade level. In other words, 10 minutes for first-graders, 20 for second-graders and so on.



grade level x 10 =
minutes of homework
to assign per night

Pictures of the Newsletter courtesy internet