

Ladera Ranch School



HOMEWORK PLAN

This plan complies with Board Policy 6154 and Superintendent's Operational Letter #6.21 Guidelines for Homework

Purpose of Homework

In accordance with Board Policy 6154, the Capistrano Unified School Board believes properly designed homework significantly strengthens student learning and achievement and is part of a well-planned instructional program. Homework can reinforce academic skills taught in school and enable students to learn how to conduct research effectively, develop ideas creatively and become life-long learners.

Homework reinforces classroom learning objectives. Homework is assigned only when necessary and it is understood that students need to maintain a healthy balance between homework, family time, free time, and extra curricular activities after school. Homework assignments are assigned:

- To practice a skill previously taught by the teacher in the class.
- To prepare for an upcoming lesson by exploring background information prior to the lesson.
- To extend knowledge of subjects learned or make connections with prior knowledge.
- To make up work due to absences.

<p>2.6.1 Frequency and Average Amount of Homework</p>	<p>Homework is assigned four nights per week to reinforce core academic standards. The amount of time per night that a child spends on homework should, in general, use the following formula: student's grade multiplied by ten minutes. For instance, a second grade student would have an average of written homework four nights per week.</p> <p>In addition, elementary students will be expected to read independently or have parents read to them for approximately 15 - 20 minutes daily.</p>
<p>2.6.2 Grade Weight of Homework</p>	<p>Homework is graded as an effort grade in primary classrooms. Homework grades in the upper grades and middle school classes will reflect both academic and effort grading, as delineated on the report card. The homework academic grade will have different weights at different grade levels, but in general should weigh no more than thirty percent of the total grade for the unit or reporting period.</p>
<p>2.6.3 Homework Make-Up Procedures</p>	<p>Illness/Excused Absences: In the event that an elementary student misses more than two days of school, the teacher will prepare a homework packet for the parents to pick up for the student to complete at home. All make-up work will be due to the teacher a reasonable amount of time after the student returns to school. Reasonable is defined, as within the same number of days a student was absent, up to five days..</p> <p>Consequences for Late or Missing Work: Students must turn in work, even if it is late. The assignment will receive a reduced grade, as determined by each grade level team. Students will be rewarded randomly with Pride Tickets for turning in homework on time. Consequences for missing or late work at elementary grades may include recess detention, denial of special classroom privileges, parent conferences, or referral to the Student Study Team. Also, effort grades on the report card will be negatively affected.</p>
<p>2.6.4 Guidelines for Appropriate Parent Involvement in Homework</p>	<p>Since most homework is practice, it is expected that parents will assist their children with the work while encouraging their independence. To help their children, parents/guardians should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend Back-to-School Night and read communication from the teacher and the school • Periodically ask general questions about what a student is learning in class • Provide a suitable place for study, free from distraction. • Check child's homework planner daily in grades 4 and 5. • Offer suggestions but encourage independence. • Participate eagerly in assignments that call for active parental involvement. • Check to see that homework assignments are completed • Assist in balancing homework with other activities. • Talk with teachers if assignments seem to cause students continuing problems. • Insist upon proper use and care of book and materials.

2.6.5 Means by Which Parents Will Be Informed about Expectations	Parents will be informed about homework procedures by teachers during Back to School Night, at conferences, and through written communication from individual teachers and the school.
2.6.6 In School Procedures to Teach Study Habits	Teachers will teach study skills such as time management, use and review of prior knowledge, graphic organizers, outlining, and agendas to assist students with homework assignments. Prior to homework being assigned, teachers will model procedures and provide guided practice to ensure that students understand the teachers' expectations.
2.6.7 Access to Resources, Materials, Assistance/Support	It will be the teacher's responsibility to be sure that students have access to resources, materials and support needed to complete a homework assignment. Modification of assignments on an individual student basis may be needed for some homework assignments.
2.6.8 Coordination of Assignments, Tests Among Teachers	Teams shall consider homework load on students as they plan standards-based lessons and assignments.
2.6.9 Procedures for Informing Students of Link Between Homework Assignment & Standards	Teachers will clearly outline standards and expectations for an assignment, providing anchor or benchmark papers as models, when appropriate, and will provide specific guidelines as to how an assignment is pertinent to content standards and key learning objectives.
2.6.10 Guidelines for Student Success in Homework Completion	<p>To successfully complete homework, students should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen carefully to all directions regarding homework. • Ask questions if the assignments are not clear. • Become familiar with classroom routines and procedures for recording and turning in homework assignments • Become familiar with procedures for submitting late or absent work • Finish class work in a timely manner and begin homework assignments in class so the teacher is accessible if questions arise. • Keep a notebook record or agenda of all assignments, including due dates and other specific requirements. • Take home all necessary materials. • Have a definite time and space for study, free from distractions. • Budget time wisely. Begin assignments promptly and turn them in when due. • Make up any work missed.

