

Exhibit A – 6154 Homework Policy(a)

OPUSD Elementary Homework Guidelines

Recent research provides a clear indication that nightly homework has little -if any- benefit for developing academic, study, or responsibility skills in elementary students (Cooper, 1989; Cooper et al. 2006). Allowing time for students to develop personal interests and have Play time, Down time, and Family time (PDF) is a priority for OPUSD, especially in the elementary grades (Challenge Success, 2012). Furthermore, developing students' love of reading and writing remains a high priority for OPUSD. Therefore, all elementary schools will share the following homework practices:

Students in grades DK-3 will not receive nightly homework. Occasional homework that cannot reasonably be completed at school for special projects may be assigned (i.e. interviewing a grandparent as part of a family heritage project).

Students in grades DK-3 are expected to read and/or write at home daily. This reading and writing will not be graded or recorded as homework. Rather, this nightly literacy work is in support of the classroom literacy instruction. Teachers may use this nightly literacy work as a means to communicate what skills the student is currently developing.

Students in grades DK-5 and parents are encouraged to read together, play games aimed at developing academic or thinking skills, and allow students to pursue interests such as athletics, the arts, or academic disciplines of the student's choosing.

In order to connect student learning to the home, schools and teachers will share new resources or opportunities related to academic content (i.e. games, websites, community events, supporting documents related to literacy instruction). Teachers may also provide additional, optional practice or challenge assignments related to academic content. Teachers may not offer incentives for the completion of optional assignments.

Students in grades 4-5 may receive skill practice aimed to not exceed 15 minutes total per academic content area per day. Any assigned skill practice will be previously assessed by the teacher and determined to be a targeted need for the student. Any student who regularly requires targeted skill practice more than twice per week may be referred to the school's SST process.

Due to the nature of OPUSD's inquiry approach to learning, students in grades DK-5 may be asked to complete work related to long term projects at home. These projects will include guidance from the teacher in order for students to develop planning and

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work habits. Students in grades 4-5 may be expected to prepare at home for assessments, presentations, or other classroom activities.

For homework to be effective, responsibility is shared amongst students, teachers, parents, and administrators.

Student Responsibilities

- Make sure assignment instructions are understood. Seek clarification from the teacher if an instruction is not clear prior to leaving class.
- Work as independently as possible.
- Seek assistance from a parent/guardian only after attempting the work on their own first.

Parent Responsibilities

- Provide a consistent time and location for homework.
- Provide a distraction free environment for students to complete homework.
- Encourage and guide your child, but do not do the assignment for them.
- Communicate with the teacher directly if there is a continued concern about homework.

Teacher Responsibilities

- Ensure that homework is developmentally appropriate and able to be done independently.
- Communicate clear expectations to students and parents.
- Review homework and provide any necessary feedback within a reasonable amount of time.

Administrator Responsibilities

- Ensure that homework practices at the school level are consistent with the district educational goals, guidelines and policy.
- Facilitate the communication process between the school and home as it relates to the district guidelines on homework.