

## INDIAN PRAIRIE UNIT DISTRICT 204 ELEMENTARY HOMEWORK STATEMENT

The following information supports District 204's Homework Policy 725.03, current research, and the philosophy and practices of elementary school educators.

Please keep in mind as homework is assigned and completed that homework benefits student learning when it connects to, not replaces, direct instruction. It should be used for remediation, meaningful practice, and to expand concepts taught in the classroom.

The following specifics support positive, productive homework as a tool for learning:

- The "Ten Minute Rule" should be applied as a general rule for homework assignments; ten minutes multiplied by the grade level per night. (up to 10x1 for kindergarten, 10x1 for first grade, 10x5 for fifth grade, etc.) These minutes represent a total expectation from all teachers with which a child works but do not include independent reading. The time requirements and the frequency of homework will vary according to each student's abilities, grade level, and the subject matter; however, if a child is consistently devoting time beyond the "Ten Minute Rule", parents should contact the classroom teacher. Workload adjustments, time management improvements, and/or motivation strategies are examples of ways to address such issues.
- Projects assigned as homework should be included in the "Ten Minute Rule."
- Nightly study to include homework assignments should occur on weeknights only. Weekends and vacation periods will be avoided for specific assignments unless students are making up work previously assigned. Independent reading is encouraged on a routine basis, including over the weekend and during vacation periods.
- Once homework is assigned the teacher is responsible for appropriate follow through until the assignment is completed with feedback offered in a timely fashion.
- It is appropriate for parents to answer occasional questions or provide guidance regarding an assignment. It is not appropriate for parents to do most of the assignment for their child. It is not appropriate for an assignment to require a parent to be the primary instructor. If parents feel that their child is particularly struggling with an assignment or is confused, parents should contact the classroom teacher.

### Make Up Work:

- Make up work is determined by the teacher involved. Considerations include length of absence and nature of absence.
- When a student has been absent for three or more days, teachers will provide homework as appropriate given adequate time to prepare. A teacher might advise alternative assignments such as keeping a journal and assigning some reading when appropriate. Parents are asked to keep in mind that much of what happens in class (direct instruction, discussions, activities, informal assessing, group work, etc.) cannot be made up by sending paper/pencil work home.
- Upon return from an absence, students will submit make-up work in a timely fashion, generally within one to two days for every day absent.

### Grading:

Assessment of student learning should occur in conjunction with instruction. Grades for that student learning should be based solely on academic achievement that takes place during instructional time. Therefore, although it is appropriate to provide feedback to students on their quality and completion of homework, their effort, behavior, and attendance, this feedback should be kept separate from that provided on academic achievement.