**HINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

UNIFIED ELEMENTARY

STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK

EAST SCHOOL

2018-2019

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**Elementary Homework Guidelines**

Homework is an expected part of the educational program of the Hingham Public Schools, for

the purpose of providing practice and application, reinforcing study skills, and stimulating

independence and responsibility in students. Homework is regularly assigned at the secondary

level. The amount, frequency, and degree of difficulty will be based on the abilities and needs of

the students and at the discretion of the teacher, balanced with consideration of the social and

emotional growth of students and the overall mission of the Hingham Public Schools. Homework

guidelines specify the amount and frequency of homework deemed appropriate for each grade

level. The schools recognize the role of parents in homework by suggesting ways parents can

assist in helping students to carry out assigned responsibilities.

HPSP 5.8 8/25/16

Homework at the elementary level is an expected part of the educational program. Homework

assignments will vary in frequency and intensity as appropriate to the age and grade level of the

students involved. All homework assignments will be made in accordance with the following

guidelines.

**General**

1. Guidelines reflect the time that typically might be expected to complete the assignment and

may vary according to individual differences.

2. Homework assignments may include such activities as creative work and primary research

initiatives that require more time than is usually available in class or that involve parent

participation or support.

3. In certain cases, homework assignments may be given to individual children to meet the

need for extra study or practice in a subject where a child is having difficulty or to provide a

child with enrichment activities.

4. Daily at home reading (to, with, or by a child) is an important aspect of a child’s education

and enhances the building of a strong foundation for lifelong learning and the enjoyment of

reading.

**Purposes of Homework**

1. To reinforce school learning by providing practice and application.

2. To extend and to reinforce study skills and techniques taught in school.

3. To offer opportunities which enrich the school experience through related homework

activities.

4. To stimulate voluntary effort, initiative, independence, responsibility, self-direction, and a

habit of lifelong learning.

5. To strengthen the home-school link by involving parents in discussions or explorations that

are related to topics being taught in the classroom.

6. To help children make up work lost due to absence (after appropriate instruction has been

given in school).

**Role of the Teacher**

1. Teachers should design assignments to accomplish specific purposes that are closely related

to learning activities occurring in the classroom.

2. Teachers should articulate assignments carefully and give clear directions for completing the

homework task(s).

3. Teachers will assist students in learning and practicing independent study skills, especially

in the case of long term assignments.

4. Teachers will review completed homework assignments so that children can learn from their

mistakes and so that concepts/skills learned can be utilized effectively in the instructional

program.

**Role of the Student**

1. Students are expected to maintain a notebook in which to record each day’s homework

assignments.

2. Unless otherwise specified by the teacher, students are expected to submit completed

homework on the day following the assignment.

3. Homework quality should reflect the students’ best efforts and be consistent with the

standards for classroom work.

4. Students are expected to work for the time specified (on the following pages), whether or

not they are able to fully complete the task(s) assigned.

5. Students are expected to make up incomplete homework within the week it was assigned,

unless excused from doing so by the teacher.

**Role of the Parent**

1. Parents are responsible for providing a suitable environment for the child to complete

homework requirements and for assisting.

2. Parents are encouraged to participate fully in homework activities that explicitly involve

them in discussions or other explorations related to classroom learning activities.

3. Parents are encouraged to foster and support both recreational and assignment related

reading.

4. Parents are encouraged to communicate with the teacher whenever concerns arise about

homework.

5. Parents are encouraged to be supportive and helpful to children but to provide content

assistance only when needed or asked for by the student

**Recommended Times and Frequency**

The comments below reflect time expectations that are typical. The time actually required may

vary from child to child and from one assignment to the next. However, children should not be

expected to expend more than the allotted time on a regular basis. If homework completion

becomes an ongoing issue, the parents/guardian should instruct the child to make his/her best

effort for the allotted time, and the parent should contact the teacher to discuss the matter further.

**Grades One and Two**

Regular homework should be expected. However, as is the case with Kindergarten, assignments

may be geared toward requests for the child to seek out and bring in objects or materials that will

enhance what the child is studying in school. The support of a parent, other adult, or older child

may also be specified and will sometimes be in the form of a suggested explanation or

discussion. Mathematics homework may be called “Home Links.” With the cooperation of

parents, some children may be recommended to complete unfinished class work at home or to

practice further skills that have been taught but not yet mastered. Daily reading is encouraged.