

## Montgomery Elementary School Middle School Homework Policy

Dear Parents:

This letter explains the homework policy for the middle school (6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade). Please read the policy with your child so that you understand the expectations with regard to homework. Following these guidelines can help decrease tension associated with homework and increases your child's learning.

*Homework is assigned for three purposes:*

- *Practice of a learned skill*
- *Preparation for new content/skills*
- *Elaboration on content/skills that have already been introduced*

*Successful and timely completion of homework assignments will enhance your child's learning as well as teach important time management and self-discipline skills.*

For your child to be successful with homework, he or she needs:

- **A place to do homework.** If possible, your child should do homework in a designated spot each night (an uncluttered, quiet space that is easily monitored by an adult).
- **A schedule for completing homework.** Guide your child in planning a homework schedule that prioritizes assignments according to due dates and length. Show them how to “chunk” large assignments into smaller, more manageable sections. *Students are responsible for recording their homework for each class in a notebook or planner. The school will provide notebooks upon request.* If homework is not completed on time, students are expected to stay for **homework club** the following morning or evening. Phone calls will be made home if that is the case.
- **Encouragement, motivation, and prompting.** It is not a good idea to sit with your child and do homework with him or her. Your child needs to practice independently and to apply what has been learned in class. On the other hand, it is important to monitor and encourage him or her to be on task. Some suggestions or prompts that you can use to help your child are:
  - *What are the directions asking you to do?*
  - *What will you do first...then...next....last?*
  - *Have you considered....?*
  - *Looking back, tell me about....?*
  - *What have you tried? Why? Could you try it another way?*
  - *What other information do you still need?*
  - *Where could you find that information?*

If your child consistently cannot complete homework assignments alone, please contact his or her teacher.

- **Reasonable time expectations.** Research shows that reasonable amounts of homework each night are the following:
  - 6<sup>th</sup> grade: 60 minutes
  - 7<sup>th</sup> grade: 70 minutes
  - 8<sup>th</sup> grade: 80 minutes

If your child seems to be spending much more time than this, please contact his or her teacher. Some nights there will not be that much; others will have a bit more. *Please be sure to review your child's homework notebook or planner with him or her each night in order to monitor their assignments and due dates.*

- **A bedtime.** When it comes time to go to bed, please stop your child, even if the assignment has not been finished. *It is your child's responsibility to let their teacher know they haven't finished their homework **before class begins.***

Following these suggestions will help increase your child's learning opportunities and establish habits that will enable success. Please return the bottom portion of this policy with the appropriate signatures, acknowledging that you have read and discussed the policy with your child. If you have any questions, please contact your child's TA teacher.

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I have read and reviewed the homework policy with my child.

Date:

Student's name:

Student's signature:

Parent's name:

Parent's signature