

## Northwood Elementary Homework Plan

At Northwood Elementary, homework is defined as: "Any work assigned by or recommended by the teacher to be done outside of class." The IUSD Board of Education recognizes that learning takes place both within and outside of the classroom. Therefore, it should be emphasized that regular assignments outside the instructional day are an important part of the total instructional program. Such assignments should be made according to the needs of the student and the nature of the subject. Homework develops mastery and good study habits, including: (a) *time management*, (b) *concentrating on the task at hand*, (c) *taking responsibility for completing work assigned*, and (d) being accountable for the quality of one's work.

### The Purpose of Homework at Northwood:

At Northwood, our mission statement is as follows: *Our mission is to prepare our students to meet the challenges of the future and become their best selves.* To that end, our Homework Plan reinforces these ideals by:

- Practicing concepts learned in the classroom
- Previewing assignments to prepare students for subsequent lessons
- Extending assignments to transfer new skills or concepts to new situations
- Aiding in the mastery of essential skills (e.g., reading and writing)
- Reinforcing classroom learning goals
- Providing opportunities for parent-child interaction
- Giving students the time needed to prepare reports, products and presentations
- Affording students with an opportunity to complete work not finished in class
- Completing of assignments missed due to excused absences

### The Role of the Teacher at Northwood:

At Northwood, the role of the teacher is to assign appropriate homework in relation to the needs and abilities of the student, to assign work that is in direct relationship to work being covered in class, and to evaluate assignments returned by the student. Teacher responsibilities include:

- Assigning relevant, challenging and meaningful homework that reinforces classroom learning
- Giving clear instructions and making sure students understand the purpose
- Giving feedback and/or correcting homework
- Communicating with other staff as needed
- Involving parents and contacting them if a pattern of late or incomplete homework develops

### The Role of the Parent at Northwood:

At Northwood, the role of the parent in homework is to provide home conditions conducive to learning, and to show a genuine interest and a positive attitude toward their child's

work. Younger children need help in developing a routine and in choosing a quiet, well-lighted place to complete the assigned task. As children grow older, they continue to need ongoing parental support and recognition of the importance of schoolwork. If your child is spending an inordinate amount of time doing homework, you should contact your child's teacher. Parent responsibilities include:

- Setting a regular, uninterrupted study time each day
- Establishing a quiet, well-lit study area
- Monitoring student's organization and daily list of assignments in their agenda
- If needed, helping your child *discover* the answer, not give the answer
- Being supportive if your child gets frustrated with difficult assignments
- Remaining informed about the student's learning process

### **The Role of the Student at Northwood:**

At Northwood, the role of the student is to put forth one's best effort. Actual time required to complete assignments will vary according to each student's study habits, academic skills, and aptitude as it relates to given subjects. Students are also encouraged to pursue non-assigned, independent, leisure reading for both our Reading Counts and our Reading Olympic Programs. Student responsibilities include:

- Writing down assignments in their Northwood Student Planner
- Following teacher instructions and textbook directions
- Asking questions when clarification is necessary
- Making sure that all assignments and learning goals are clear
- Setting aside a regular time for studying
- Finding a quiet, well-lit study area, free from distractions (e.g., video games, TV, phone, etc.)
- Working independently whenever possible
- Producing quality work or work done to the best of one's ability
- Completing homework on time

### **Late Work or non-completion of Homework:**

Students who miss homework because of an absence will receive the opportunity to make up missed work; it's the students' responsibility to get work missed due to illness or absence.

All students are expected to turn work in on time. Students who habitually turn in late assignments are subject to any of the following consequences, based upon teacher discretion and/or grade level policy:

- Partial credit
- No credit
- Missed reward activity
- Communication with parents

# Northwood's Homework Policy by Grade Level

## Kindergarten Homework Policy

### **Purpose of Homework:**

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- Practicing concepts learned in the classroom
- Previewing assignments to prepare students for subsequent lessons
- Extending assignments to transfer new skills or concepts to new situations
- Aiding in the mastery of essential skills (e.g., reading and writing)
- Reinforcing classroom learning goals
- Providing opportunities for parent-child interaction
- Giving students the time needed to prepare reports, products and presentations
- Affording students with an opportunity to complete work not finished in class
- Completing of assignments missed due to excused absences

### **Role of the Parent:**

At Northwood, the role of the parent in homework is to provide home conditions conducive to learning, and to show a genuine interest and a positive attitude toward their child's work. Younger children need help in developing a routine and in choosing a quiet, well-lighted place to complete the assigned task. As children grow older, they continue to need ongoing parental support and recognition of the importance of schoolwork. If your child is spending an inordinate amount of time doing homework, you should contact your child's teacher. Parent responsibilities include:

- Setting a regular, uninterrupted study time each day
- Establishing a quiet, well-lit study area
- Monitoring student's organization and daily list of assignments in their agenda
- If needed, helping your child *discover* the answer, not give the answer
- Being supportive if your child gets frustrated with difficult assignments
- Remaining informed about the student's learning process

### **Weekly Homework Assignments:**

Homework folders are sent home every Monday and need to be completed at home throughout the week. The folders are to be returned to class on Friday, completed in its entirety. Homework folders consist of the following items:

- Letter Writing Practice Page corresponding to the letter of the week.
- Math pages from our Homework and Remembering books included in our math

series.

- 2-3 Phonics Library Readers that are to be read by the child throughout the week.
- Letter of the week picture and writing page to help build vocabulary.
- Children must read or be read to for 20 minutes each night.
- One Journal Writing entry per week on any topic. Minimum of 2-3 sentences using inventive spelling. This begins in the spring.

**Grading Criteria:**

Homework is graded on 100% completion and accuracy. Every assignment must be completed by the student in their penmanship with support from parents if needed.

**Late Work Policies:**

Students who miss homework because of an absence will receive the opportunity to make up missed work; it's the students' responsibility to get work missed due to illness or absence.

All students are expected to turn work in on time. Students who habitually turn in late assignments are subject to any of the following consequences, based upon teacher discretion and/or grade level policy:

- Partial credit
- No credit
- Missed reward activity
- Communication with parents

**First Grade Homework Policy**

**Purpose of Homework:**

- Practicing concepts learned in the classroom
- Previewing assignments to prepare students for subsequent lessons
- Extending assignments to transfer new skills or concepts to new situations
- Aiding in the mastery of essential skills (e.g., reading and writing)
- Reinforcing classroom learning goals
- Providing opportunities for parent-child interaction
- Giving students the time needed to prepare reports, products and presentations
- Affording students with an opportunity to complete work not finished in class
- Completing of assignments missed due to excused absences

**Role of the Parent:**

- Setting a regular, uninterrupted study time each day

- Establishing a quiet, well-lit study area
- Monitoring student's organization and daily list of assignments in their agenda
- If needed, helping your child *discover* the answer, not give the answer
- Being supportive if your child gets frustrated with difficult assignments
- Remaining informed about the student's learning process

**Weekly Homework Assignments:** Spelling practice, High Frequency Word practice, Reading, Journal writing, Comprehension practice, Review of weekly math concepts

**Grading Criteria:** Accurate and Complete

**Late Work Policies:** Turn in ASAP

## **Second Grade Homework Policy**

### **Purpose of Homework:**

At Northwood, our mission statement is as follows: *Our mission is to prepare our students to meet the challenges of the future and become their best selves.* To that end, our Homework Plan reinforces these ideals by:

- Practicing concepts learned in the classroom
- Previewing assignments to prepare students for subsequent lessons
- Extending assignments to transfer new skills or concepts to new situations
- Aiding in the mastery of essential skills (e.g., reading and writing)
- Reinforcing classroom learning goals
- Providing opportunities for parent-child interaction
- Giving students the time needed to prepare reports, products and presentations

Affording students with an opportunity to complete work not finished in class

Completing of assignments missed due to excused absences

### **Role of the Parent:**

At Northwood, the role of the parent in homework is to provide home conditions conducive to learning, and to show a genuine interest and a positive attitude toward their child's work. Younger children need help in developing a routine and in choosing a quiet, well-lighted place to complete the assigned task. As children grow older, they continue to need ongoing parental support and recognition of the importance of schoolwork. If your child is spending an inordinate amount of time doing homework, you should contact your child's teacher. Parent responsibilities include:

- Setting a regular, uninterrupted study time each day

- Establishing a quiet, well-lit study area
- Monitoring student's organization and weekly assignments
- If needed, helping your child *discover* the answer, not give the answer
- Being supportive if your child gets frustrated with difficult assignments
- Remaining informed about the student's learning process

**Weekly Homework Assignments:**

- Reading (20 minutes minimum), Log on reading log
- Weekly journal writing
- Daily spelling task assignments to prepare for Friday's quiz
- Daily Math practice pages- Math Expressions Homework and Remembering Book
- Practice math facts for Friday's times quiz
- Optional Challenge activity (Math or ELA)
- Quarterly Project and/or Presentation Preparation

**Grading Criteria:** Checked for completion

**Late Work Policies:** Students who miss homework because of an absence will receive the opportunity to make up missed work; it's the students' responsibility to get work missed due to illness or absence.

All students are expected to turn work in on time. Students who habitually turn in late assignments are subject to any of the following consequences, based upon teacher discretion and/or grade level policy:

- Partial credit
- No credit
- Communication with parents

**Third Grade Homework Policy**

**Purpose of Homework:**

- Practicing concepts learned in the classroom
- Reinforcing classroom learning goals
- Giving students the time needed to prepare reports, products and presentations
- Affording students with an opportunity to complete work not finished in class
- Completing of assignments missed due to excused absences.

**Role of the Parent:**

- Setting a regular, uninterrupted study time each day
- Establishing a quiet, well-lit study area
- Monitoring student's organization and daily list of assignments in their agenda
- If needed, helping your child *discover* the answer, not give the answer
- Being supportive if your child gets frustrated with difficult assignments
- Remaining informed about the student's learning process

**Weekly Homework Assignments:**

- Math: a follow-up to the lesson taught in class that day, or a skill practice worksheet
- Reading: 20 minutes of silent reading, a 2 sentence review of what they read
- Spelling: a nightly assignment chosen off of a menu of activities
- Book Project: once a month book report on a variety of genre

**Grading Criteria:**

Percentage grade for math and long term projects, effort grade for spelling and reading sentences.

**Late Work Policies:**

Daily homework is completed at recess if it is not completed at home. Projects are graded a percentage down each day they are late.

**Fourth Grade Homework Policy**

**Purpose of Homework:**

Review and practice skills, preview material, provide enrichment opportunities as needed.

**Role of the Parent:**

- (1) Set a regular, uninterrupted study time each day
- (2) Monitor student's organization and daily list of assignments in their agenda
- (3) If needed, help your child *discover* the answer, not give the answer
- (4) Refer to classroom website for any additional information

**Weekly Homework Assignments:**

Spelling, Math, Reading, Grammar practice & review (occasional Science and Social Studies assignments)

**Grading Criteria:** Percentage grading, subjective (letter) grading

**Late Work Policies:**

Students have 24 hours to complete and turn in late assignments (not including absences) 10 pts. Will be deducted from late assignments. (Special circumstances will be considered on a case by case situations)

### Fifth Grade Homework Policy

**Purpose of Homework:** Review and practice skills, preview material, provide enrichment opportunities as needed.

**Role of the Parent:**

- (1) Set a regular, uninterrupted study time each day
- (2) Monitor student's organization and daily list of assignments in their agenda
- (3) If needed, help your child *discover* the answer, not give the answer
- (4) Refer to classroom website for any additional information

**Weekly Homework Assignments:** Math, independent leveled reading, given Monday-Thursday. Science, social studies, spelling and language arts are rotated. (Reading can be done over the weekend instead of during the week.) There are occasional projects and long term assignments given.

**Grading Criteria:** Some work is corrected by % correct, but credit is given on an effort scale. Some credit is earned for corrections.

**Late Work Policies:** Students have 24 hours to complete and turn in late assignments (not including absences) for 50% credit. (Special circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis).

### Sixth Grade Homework Policy

**Purpose of Homework:** Practice new skills, finish incomplete assignments, prepare for test taking, help prepare for presentations/reports

**Role of the Parent:** Oversee assignments, make corrections when necessary, be able to see what child is working on in school

**Weekly Homework Assignments:** Mon-Thurs: Spelling, Math, Reading

3x/week: Science or Social Studies

**Grading Criteria:** 10% to 25% according to assignment

**Late Work Policies:** Missed points on chart, finish during recess, 50% loss of credit for each assignment missing.