



Oaklands Central School Home Learning Policy 2015

The concept of home learning for all students at all ages is supported by the Department of Education and Communities and our school's community. Home learning has the potential to further the home-school partnership in the education of the child and promote further learning.

Rationale

Home learning is a valuable part of schooling. It allows for practising, extending and consolidating work done in class. Home learning provides training for students in planning and organising time and develops a range of skills in identifying and using information resources. Additionally, it establishes habits of study, concentration and self-discipline.

Essentially, home learning should be viewed as an educational activity which arises from an interesting, stimulating and appropriate school experience and which is seen by the child as deserving attention out of school hours.

It is imperative that home learning **not** be used as a form of punishment if we are to develop favourable attitudes towards it.

Aim

The aim of our Home Learning Policy is to ensure home learning is educationally beneficial and meets the realistic expectations of students, teachers, parents and caregivers.

Parents and caregivers have an important role as partners in the educations of our students. Our partnership in learning will ensure the appropriate amount and type of home learning is set to enhance the learning of every student at Oaklands Central School. Our aim is that every student achieves to the best of their ability such that learning will be an enjoyable life long experience.

Purposes of home learning:

- It is a valuable part of schooling
- Allows for practicing, extending and consolidation work done in class
- Provides training for students in planning and organizing time
- Develops a range of skills in identifying and using information resources
- Strengthens home-school links
- Provides parents and caregivers with insights into what is being taught in the classroom
- Challenges and extends gifted and talented children
- To encourage the development of the child's home learning interest, knowledge and skills through home learning activities

Parental Co-operation

Parents are asked to remember it is the child's home learning and that it is their role to support and guide. Children must work towards being responsible for their home learning.

Parents who have trouble getting children to do work set should seek advice from the class teacher. If they believe their child is spending too much time on home learning, please also contact the class teacher.

Some suggestions for establishing positive home learning routines

1. It is often best to establish a set time for home learning.

2. Home learning should be done in a suitable comfortable environment, free of distractions.
3. If the child doesn't understand part of the home learning, he/she should seek help from the class teacher. Parents are welcome to consult teachers to discuss new approaches to old work. eg. Maths

Students' Responsibilities

- To ensure that all home learning is completed to the best of their ability and on time.
- If a student cannot complete their home learning on time then he/she must bring a note from home explaining why.
- If a student is away from school then he/she must find out what home learning is given and have it completed on time. If this is not possible then the student must see the teacher before the due date to arrange an appropriate extension of time.

Consequence when a student fails to complete home learning

- Primary students will be encouraged to complete home learning with class incentives and parents will be asked to encourage the establishment of this valuable routine at home.
- Secondary students will be given detentions to complete all the missed home learning.
- If a student continues to not complete home learning a note will be sent home to parents.

Home learning Routines (Primary)

The following times are guides as to the time children should spend doing home learning each night.

Years 5/6	reading a minimum of 20-30 minutes each night.
Years 2/3/4	reading a minimum of 10-20 minutes each night.
Years K/1	reading a minimum of 10 minutes each night.

Each class teacher will establish a routine (as below). However, this may vary.

- Home learning to be sent home weekly.
- Home learning is to be interest based and project based and set as determined by the classroom teacher. Home learning may also be set to provide students with follow up revision tasks home learning where needed.

Home learning Routines (Secondary)

Home learning may be set on any day of the week and as the need arises could involve weekend work. Routines need to be established at home so that there is a set time for home learning. This ensures all home learning is completed on time. The setting of routines and the completion of all work is the student's responsibility in secondary school. Students must therefore develop time management skills and an ability to become self-directed learners.

The amount and frequency of home learning given in each subject varies. On occasions where a student has no set home learning, such opportunities should be used for revision. Revision is a major component of any home study program and should occur regularly. Study timetables are essential so that a regular pattern of home learning, revision and study is established for everyday in the week.

Home learning and study routines for all secondary students should revolve around other activities such as sporting, recreation or cultural interests, so that a balance is maintained.

All students are encouraged to develop a positive attitude towards home learning. Home learning should focus on quality over a period of time, rather than irregular concentrations of unrealistic proportions. Two categories of home learning exist. Home learning comprising set assignments for specific dates, and daily home learning where the school lessons are REVIEWED.

A guideline for time to spend on home learning is:-

Years 7&8 30 - 45 minutes apart from assignments, 5 days a week i.e. 2 ½+ hours per week
Years 9 & 10 45 - 60 minutes apart from assignments, 5 days a week i.e. 4+ hrs per week
Years 11&12 60 - 120 minutes apart from assignments, 5 days a week i.e. 5+ hours per week

DAILY ROUTINE

Student's daily routine for home learning should include the following activities

1. read over notes from each lesson / subject of that day
2. complete any unfinished work
3. make a start on assignments or do more work on assignments
4. revise work (that is STUDY)

Assessment tasks will be set on a regular basis for all secondary classes. These tasks are to be completed and handed to the appropriate teacher on the due date.