



DCDSB Homework Guidelines

Homework can be a valuable tool for enhancing student learning and well-being. When roles and responsibilities are clearly outlined, students are set up to succeed. The following guidelines have been created to support an equitable, inclusive, and effective framework for homework in the Durham Catholic District School Board (DCDSB).

Homework Definition

The Ministry of Education defines homework in Growing Success as, “work that students do at home to practice skills, consolidate knowledge and skills, and/or prepare for the next class”.

What is the Purpose of Homework?

1. **Reinforcement of Learning:** Homework should deepen understanding, reinforce skills, and allow students to apply what they have learned in class.
2. **Building Responsibility:** Assignments help cultivate self-discipline, time management, and independence.
3. **Spiritual Integration:** Encourage reflection, gratitude, and a sense of purpose by connecting academic learning to students' faith and values.

Tips for Educators

The following tips for educators will help to inform the assignment of homework that supports student learning and student success.

1. **Quality Over Quantity:** Homework is not a necessity. Assign meaningful and purposeful tasks for homework that enhance learning rather than busy work.
2. **Differentiation:** Tailor homework to the diverse needs, abilities, and resources of students which could include activities such as games and conversations.
3. **Incorporate Faith:** Include opportunities for students to reflect on how their studies relate to Catholic values such as service, stewardship, and community.
4. **Provide Feedback:** Look for opportunities to provide constructive feedback to support students' growth academically and personally.
5. **Balance:** Be mindful of students' extracurricular commitments, family life and current life experiences/realities, respecting their need for rest and recreation.

Tips for Students

The tips for students below are to cultivate positive attitudes toward homework and set students up for success.

1. **Set Goals:** Approach homework with a plan by establishing priorities and considering due dates.
2. **Be Consistent:** Establish a routine to complete assignments diligently and on time.
3. **Seek Help When Needed:** Communicate with teachers or peers when challenges arise, trusting in a supportive community.

Tips for Families

The following tips for families provide parents, guardians and caregivers with ideas to support their children when completing schoolwork and how they can instill positive mindsets toward homework at home.

1. **Encourage Effort:** Praise children for their dedication and persistence rather than only outcomes.
2. **Balance Priorities:** Support students in balancing academics, family time, and faith practices.
3. **Model Lifelong Learning:** Foster a positive mindset towards learning by engaging your student in conversations about what they're studying at school. Ask questions to encourage curiosity and deeper understanding.