

Building Block: Education

Homework: Make it Routine

Consistency is a key factor in academic success. While curriculums vary from subject to subject and year to year, homework – and its value as a tool for academic success – progresses from one year to the next as students prepare for their future. If established as routine, it provides students, teachers and parents with multiple benefits.

Homework is an extension of the skills, activities and knowledge taught in school; and properly utilized by teachers, produces an effect on learning three times as large as family socio-economic status (Redding, S.; Parents and Learning).

Opportunity for students to practice homework must be built into the home-life but also can be accomplished if students are involved with afterschool providers, tutors, or mentor programs. It is the consistent and intentional practice in homework that increases academic achievement regardless of student ability, and strengthens self-directed learning.

The predictable routine of homework makes it most effective, not the amount. In addition,



homework is most valuable when it is:

- directly related to in-class work
- used to master rather than introduce new material
- graded and included as a significant part of the report card
- returned to the student soon after it is collected, and marked with comments particular to the student

See “Parents and Learning”, pg. 194-5, Section 8, *Solid Foundation Resource manual*

A school community ensures the benefits of homework when it develops, applies and monitors a written homework policy. A homework policy provides guidance to parents, teachers and students and outlines the importance of their roles. This policy strengthens a school community’s resolve to give value to homework as well as consistency in practice from classroom to classroom and year to year. Communicating the policy to parents and monitoring homework practices of teachers strengthens its purpose.

Established “study time” outside of the school day (five days a week) encourages homework completion and additional opportunities for reading, practicing, and test preparation that increase self-directed learning.



Reading • Studying • Respect • Responsibility

Solid Foundation is a school-based team process that helps:

- Strengthen family-school connections
- Engage parents in their children’s learning
- Improve student, academic and social learning



Check out Section 1, pgs. 23-25; Section 4, pgs. 23-33 and Section 8, pgs. 190-204 of your Solid Foundation Resource manual.

NEED HELP?

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More information can be found at:
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Two years ago, the joint council of parents, teachers and principal for three schools in the Uniontown Area School District established the need and desire for a volunteer corps to assist in chaperoning field trips and social events; cut-and-paste projects done inside or outside of school; and classroom volunteering to work with students in small group activities or individual students in basic skills. This year, about 80 participants attended the hour-and-a-half orientation to review the guidelines for working with the school. Additionally, values of confidentiality, dependability and punctuality were examined. School principal Edward Fearer stated, “Opening the doors of the school has encouraged an atmosphere of trust and shared responsibilities for increasing student achievement and enrichment.”