

HOMEWORK

Guidelines for Assigning Homework

1. Individual differences are a prime factor in any work. Homework may, and should, vary from pupil to pupil.
2. Homework demands that exceed the capabilities of the individual could result in mothers, fathers, or other family members taking over the work.
3. Homework assignments given for disciplinary reasons are ill advised. The association of school work and unpleasantness should not be fostered by teachers.
4. Assignments must have a legitimate educational goal that pupils can understand.
5. Assignments should not require the use of reference materials that are not readily available in school libraries, or public libraries.
6. There should be a system of cooperation among the teachers of each grade level in planning homework assignments.
7. Homework should be a gradual and progressive experience for all pupils and should, therefore, increase in complexity and amount with the maturity of the pupil.
8. Only assign homework that grows out of class work and which will enrich it.

The Teacher's Role

It is the teacher's responsibility to see that the pupils understand not just what is to be done, but why and how it should be done. Teachers are obligated to take time to evaluate and utilize the work that the pupils have done independently. Teachers have a further obligation to inform pupils of the emphasis which will be placed on homework in arriving at a final grade. There is little meaning to homework, and certainly only a limited amount of incentive for the pupil to do further assignments, if the teacher does not show appreciation for what the pupil has accomplished.

Summary

The teaching-learning process is intensely personal and very dynamic. In this context, it may seem presumptuous to expect a set of guidelines to provide the flexibility necessary to satisfy the needs and demands of an educational program as extensive as that carried out in Columbia Schools.

However, these guidelines, properly used, may form the framework that will make the work of teachers and pupils easier and more meaningful.

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