



Marmion Primary Learning at Home Policy

Rationale

We want to shift the perspective on learning at home to be more motivating and relevant than what traditional homework represents. Learning should not be a dreaded activity. We need to consider sound alternatives to traditional homework that fosters a love of learning in all students and encourages them to learn outside the classroom whether you tell them to or not.

Guidelines

- Collaboratively work with students and parents to promote an environment where students will be self-motivated to actively pursue learning at home.
- The policy be consistently applied across the whole school
- When homework is required, as part of an individual education plan, it will be negotiated between the teacher and parent.

Suggestions to encourage READING

Teachers

- Have a class library.
- Provide opportunities for students to share their personal reading. Opportunities may include activities such as discussing different books and stories, reading to students daily, providing time for personal reading in class or provide the opportunity for students to bring in personal books from home to share.
- Provide opportunities to change books from the library on a daily basis.

Parents

- Give access to books at home
- Take the time to read with or to your child every day
- Take a genuine interest in what children are reading
- Set aside a quiet time for family reading
- Encourage reading by visiting the local library
- Come to school at 8:10am to make use of the school library book exchange/reading time
- Give books as presents

Suggestions to encourage SPELLING

Teachers:

- Short sharp sessions where the emphasis is on developing strategies to effectively learn words in a developmentally appropriate way e.g., bouncing a ball, clapping, writing down etc.
- Teach specific strategies to help students improve spelling such as chunking, rhyming, patterns, and rules.

Parents:

- Play games such as Boggle, Scrabble, Word Jumble etc
- Make learning to spell words fun by making word sleuths, guessing the left-out letter of a word, clapping the letters, say alternate letters etc

Suggestions to encourage MATHEMATICS

Teachers:

- Set mathematical problems for students that challenge their mathematical understandings.

- Teach number facts strategies that students can practice at home.
- Highlight websites that focus on games and play with maths

Parents:

- Teach maths games such as Yahtzee, Pontoon, Guess my number, Tenzi, Qwirkle, Racko
- Encourage cooking and real-world activities, such as shopping where students measure, count, record etc.
- Work with children to solve mathematic puzzles and maths challenges sent home by the teacher.
- Access identified websites that focus on games and play in maths

Suggestions for PROJECTS/ASSIGNMENTS/EXTENSION WORK

Teacher:

- When applicable, the focus is student-centred where they have an appropriate level of agency over the investigation. Opportunities are provided to discuss information and share what they are learning via presentation/groups/partner.
- Teach specific research skills and how to access appropriate resources
- Provide time in class to complete/work together.
- Teach specific time management strategies such as segmentation, timelines, prioritise, plan etc

Parents:

- Take a genuine interest in what children are learning/researching. Help source materials and resources.
- Encourage students to further investigate and explore elements of their learning and encourage them to share their discoveries and interests.
- Ensure you have well stocked supplies of pencils, paper, cardboard etc

Further Suggestions for Parents/Carers

- Encourage informal learning such as unpacking the school bag, set the table, play board games, memory games, card games, set up a shop and initiate further exploration of their interests.
- For older children encourage the use of a diary, setting goals and timelines.
- Offer encouragement not enforcement.
- Organise a place in the house that is quiet and free from distractions.
- Discuss any issues with the teacher.
- Encourage physical activity and play.

Homework requests for Vacations

- We do not provide homework for students taken out during the school term for vacations. However, we do encourage students to keep a diary and gather a range of appropriate reading material from the local library on a long-term loan
- For holidays in excess of 6 months children can be enrolled in the School of Isolated and Distance Education
- Homework will be negotiated between the parents/guardian, teacher and admin for students who are ill for extended periods of time.

Related research:

Kohn, Alfie. *The Homework Myth: Why Our Kids Get Too Much of a Bad Thing* (Cambridge, MA: Da Capo Press, 2006).

Buell, John. *Closing the Book on Homework: Enhancing Public Education and Freeing Family Time*. (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2004).

Dudley-Marling, Curt. "[How School Troubles Come Home: The Impact of Homework on Families of Struggling Learners.](#)" *Current Issues in Education* [On-line] 6, 4 (2003).

Hinchey, Patricia. "Rethinking Homework." MASCD [Missouri Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development] *Fall Journal*, December 1995: 13-17.