

CLARIFY THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR HOMEWORK

Since many parents and teachers are confused about who should be doing what when it comes to homework, here are some suggestions for parents, teachers and students in regards to their responsibilities.

TEACHERS

Teachers have to remember that homework is only to be used as reinforcement for already learned material. Homework is practice work and should never involve new things to be learned. Encourage students to tell you when they don't understand. Assignments should be either written on the board or on an assignment sheet in student's own journal. Initial the assignments if needed and use this also as a communication book between parents and teachers. The school can make available a duplicate set of texts to be kept at home in order to eliminate all sorts of forgetting problems! Help the student devise a checklist for his knapsack and allow time for packing it. Check pack if necessary.

PARENTS

Parents should monitor homework, not do it! If a child cannot accomplish a homework task, the parent should write a note to that effect, along with the notation of the amount of time spent, and send it along with the unfinished assignment back to the teacher. Students should never have to work longer than double the suggested homework time for the grade level. Decide with the teacher on the maximum time the child should spend on a subject. Monitor the communication book and reward achievement. Often short review sessions each day rather than intense study before a test is more effective.

STUDENTS

It is the student's responsibility to write down the assignment in each class and have the teacher initial the communication book daily or at the end of the week and bring it home to parents. When you don't understand something, you must tell your teacher. Use a knapsack check list each day, and pack things in order.