

# St. Mary School

## Homework Policy

It is the direction of the *London District Catholic School Board* that each school creates and implements its own Homework Policy. The purpose of such a policy is to ensure that students, teachers and parents understand the principles, expectations and their responsibilities regarding homework.

The Homework Policy for St. Mary School is designed to provide a framework for learning beyond the classroom in the areas of academics and music. It is also in place to assist students in their goals to become independent, life-long learners. Good homework practices support the development of strong work habits, organizational skills and a proficiency in time management for the learner.

It is the goal of the St. Mary teaching staff that students recognize homework assignments as an important extension of their classroom learning as well as an opportunity to review and practise previously taught concepts and skills.

### Time Allotment

- Students are expected to use class time effectively at all grade levels
  - Time spent on homework will vary based on several factors, including the learning needs of the individual student
  - The “10 Minute Rule” (10 minutes per grade level per night) **on average**, is an appropriate gauge of time spent on homework
    - Grade 5            10 x 5 = 50 minutes
    - Grade 6            10 x 6 = 60 minutes
    - Grade 7            10 x 7 = 70 minutes
    - Grade 8            10 x 8 = 80 minutes
  - A balance is required between family time and homework
  - The “rotary” system of subject delivery often requires students to devote time to a variety of assignments in a given evening. The time spent on homework from one evening to the next can vary.
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- ♪ Music practice at St. Mary School is required daily, in addition to academic homework, to reinforce music skills and technique taught in class
  - ♪ String practice ranges from 20-30 minutes per night, based on Grade level, five times a week. Completed practice calendars are required by all students.
  - ♪ Vocal assignments will often include the memorization of pieces

### **Purposes of Homework**

- Learning occurs beyond the classroom
- Homework needs to be a part of every student's daily routine
- Homework reinforces classroom learning but is not meant to introduce new concepts
- Homework provides opportunities for students to develop strong Learning Skills as listed on the *Ontario Provincial Report Card*
- Homework can engage parents in a positive way in the learning process

### **Appropriate Homework Assignments**

- Assignments are to be focused, clearly stated and based on classroom experience
- Assignments should be varied in format and match the skill level, interest and learning needs of students
- Assignments should challenge students to think about, integrate and apply their previously learned knowledge and skills
- Culminating activities requiring student group work are completed primarily during class time under teacher supervision
- Homework supports learning and should not be assigned as a consequence for poor behaviour

### **Role of the school, students and parents**

#### *The School*

- The principal provides support to teachers, students and parents where necessary in successfully implementing St. Mary School's Homework Policy
- Teachers will monitor the quality and content of the students' completed homework on an on-going basis as part of the Formative Assessment process, providing constructive feedback to students
- Teachers will communicate homework information with parents through the student's Agenda when necessary (frequency will vary according to grade level)
- Rotary teachers will consult with other staff to avoid a heavy load of homework, whenever possible
- Teachers will consider the requirements for Special Needs students
- Homework completion is tracked to provide feedback to parents in the Learning Skills portion of the *Ontario Report Card*

### ***The Student***

- Students are responsible for completing homework to the best of their ability
- Students are to keep a daily record of homework assignments with the regular use of the student's Agenda
- Students should review the work and the notes from each day and practice what they have learned
- Students should apply time management skills when planning for the completion of short term and long term assignments and in studying for tests
- Students should ask for assistance from the teacher or a parent, when needed
- Students can expect an appropriate follow-up or consequence at the classroom level for incomplete homework assignments
- Students who do not complete homework on a frequent basis can be subject to the consequences as stated in the school's Code of Behaviour

♪ Students must fulfill the requirements of string and vocal music practice

### ***The Parent***

- Parents need to provide the following for their child:
  - A quiet area
  - Sufficient work space
  - Sufficient tools and materials needed to complete the homework
- Parents need to sign the student Agenda on a daily basis (Grade 5 and 6) or when required by the teacher (Grade 7 and 8)
- Parents should contact the homeroom or subject teacher if any concerns arise about homework for their child
- Parents should contact the teacher if there are concerns about the amount of homework assigned
- Parents need to encourage students to be independent learners by supervising the completion of homework with minimal but appropriate input, where needed