

Suncoast Polytechnical High School Homework Policy

The research is clear that the effectiveness of homework in improving student performance increases with the age of the student. The research also strongly indicates that the quantity and type of homework must be grade-level appropriate and the purpose should be clearly communicated to students. Studies also indicate that parents should “facilitate” but not help with homework and the positive effects of homework have significant achievement gains when teachers give feedback to students on their homework efforts.

Everyone has a role in student homework completion as indicated below:

Student Responsibilities:

Research indicates that homework produces a gain of about 24 percentage points on student achievement in high school students. In fact, it’s not until students have practiced upwards of about 24 times that they reach 80 percent competency in a concept. When students lack conceptual understanding of skills, they are liable to use procedures in a shallow and ineffective way. Research recommends 120 – 180 minutes per day for homework and SPHS staff has agreed to assign homework of approximately 30 minutes per day for their class.

Therefore, students at SPHS must develop the discipline and study skills necessary to complete homework on a consistent basis. Students at SPHS will:

1. Have a system for recording homework assignments on a daily basis;
2. Have a clear understanding of the homework assignments before leaving school;
3. Have the books, materials and hardware & software necessary to complete the assigned homework;
4. Allocate an appropriate amount of time daily for the completion of homework;
5. Turn in homework assignments when requested.

Parent Responsibilities:

Research strongly suggests that parents have an important role to play in providing an opportunity for students to complete homework. However, the research is also clear that parents should not assume responsibility for the actual completion of the student’s homework.

Therefore, to support your student, SPHS parents are responsible for providing the following:

1. Time for students to complete homework;
2. A place for students to complete homework;
3. The basic materials needed, including appropriate hardware & software;
4. The expectation for homework to be completed;
5. The supervision necessary to ensure successful completion of homework;
6. Information to the teacher about homework questions or concerns, and feedback regarding the quantity and difficulty of homework via email (example of teacher email address: mary.smith@sarasotacountyschools.net).

Print Student Name & N# Date

Student Signature

Print Parent Name Date

Parent Signature

See reverse side for Teacher & Administration Responsibilities

Teacher Responsibilities:

There is substantial evidence that the quality of homework assigned and teacher response to homework enhance its value in improving student success. While it is not practical, and/or necessary, to give in-depth feedback on every homework assignment, SPHS teachers will use strategies that will maximize the effectiveness of homework assignments.

Therefore, teachers will:

1. Design the homework for one of the following appropriate purposes:
 - a. Focused Practice of Skills
 - b. Review of Work Done in Class
 - c. Preparation for Tests
 - d. Skill Integration and Extension Assignments (i.e. projects, research papers, essays)
2. Design the homework so that it can be accomplished by the student independent of direct support of others;
3. Clearly communicate to the student the purpose, directions, and expectations for all homework assignments, as well as providing clear examples of the work to be completed;
4. Clearly establish and communicate to parents the general purpose and expectations for homework through the course syllabus;
5. Provide timely and appropriate feedback to students and parents using strategies that will
 - a. Acknowledge receipt of the homework
 - b. Monitor for completion and accuracy
 - c. Give timely feedback on key assignments
 - d. Give significant feedback on assignments based on extension, or skill integration;
 - e. Provide a grading system that does not penalize students for incorrect responses on new skills practice
6. Homework will be assigned only on the days the teacher has that student (A day/B day, not every day). However, homework assignments may extend into multiple days due to varying situations, i.e. reading, Advanced Placement (AP) course work, etc.

Administration Responsibilities:

1. Communicate SPHS homework policy to parents and students;
2. Monitor policy implementation and solicit feedback and direction through the SPHS School Advisory Council.

Research References:

Cooper, Harris. "The Battle Over Homework." Thousand Oaks. Corwin Press. 2001

Marzano, Robert; Pickering, Debra; Pollock, Jane. "Classroom Instruction that Works; Research Based Strategies for Increasing Student Achievement". Alexandria Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. 2001.

Vatterott, Cathy. "Rethinking Homework. Best Practices that Support Diverse Needs". ASCD 2009.