Parents as Partners: Homework at Mango Hill State School



What are the Homework requirements of Mango Hill State School?

The Homework Policy of Mango Hill State School was developed in collaboration with teachers, parents and students through the reviewing of research as to the best practices when it comes to homework. Homework is provided to families each week, either through a hardcopy or electronic medium and is set over a week including a weekend. For example, a teacher may distribute homework through Showbie or a worksheet (negotiable) on a Wednesday and make it due the following Tuesday. Following consultation with the community, weekly homework tasks are divided into 'Must Do' and 'Could Do' activities. The 'Must Do' activities includes reading, language conventions and number concepts. While the 'Could Do' activities include learning activities that cover other learning areas as well as wellbeing activities. Families may choose to do just the 'Must Do' activities or extra homework and include 'Could Do' activities. Teachers track homework weekly and celebrate success. Students that do not complete homework will not be punished. Feedback is provided in class and may not be explicitly written on the homework sheets. To celebrate success students that complete 100% of their 'Must Do' activities will be in line in achieving the Principal's Award for Excellence. While if a student achieve 90% or more of their 'Must Do' activities will be invited to the homework celebration activities each term. Teachers and families are encouraged to work together to support the learning of students at home.

Why is homework important?

Homework at Mango Hill State School is divided into two sections: 'must do' and 'could do' learning activities. The 'must do' activities include reading, language conventions and number concepts related to the units of work being completed in class. While the 'could do' activities are designed to provide learning activities families wish to complete as extension activities. These activities include learning areas other than English and Maths and are designed to foster engagement at school as well as socioemotional and wellbeing skills. Research indicates that homework is beneficial when it has a reading focus as well as reinforces the learning being completed in class. Homework also positively impacts the learning of students if it fosters engagement rather than disengages them from learning. Completing homework within Primary School also sets students up with study routines that will support them when they continue their learning at Secondary School and beyond. Therefore homework at Mango Hill State School has been developed, support by research, allowed families to complete extra learning activities if desired. While, for families wishing to complete the minimum requirements, homework is based specifically on reading, language and number conventions.

What homework looks like for families at Mango Hill State School? Homework is designed aligned to the recommendations of EQ regarding times. These are:

- Prep-Year 2 could be up to but generally not more than 1 hour per week
- Years 3-4 could be up to but generally not more than 2-3 hours per week
- Years 5-6 could be up to but generally not more than 3-4 hours per week

Homework is set over a week including a weekend. Families are encouraged to communicate with their Class Teacher if the provided homework does not work for their family. Teachers and families will work together to ensure that a supportive plan is put in place that supports the learning and engagement of students.

How do we know how our children are progressing?

At Mango Hill State School teachers track the completion of homework. Teachers track weekly completion of homework and student's progress towards achieving an invitation to homework celebration events and the Principal's Award of Excellence. Feedback is not provided explicitly on the homework sheets however is provided through verbal feedback in class aligned to in class learning activities.

What support can be provided at home?

- Talk positively about homework. Remind students of the importance of reading and number skills.
- Decide on a schedule for homework that works for your family. Homework is provided to families over a week including a weekend. Therefore, families can decide on when homework should be completed in their house.
- Work with the classroom teacher if homework needs to look differently for your family.
 Between families and the classroom teacher, a decision regarding homework can be made to ensure the learning and engagement of the student is fostered.

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