

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran School has established this homework policy to assist teachers and parents. This policy provides general guidelines for teachers and parents. There will be some differences from teacher to teacher and from family to family.

It is important to understand that the talents and abilities that all students possess are gifts from God. God has given these gifts in varying amounts to all individuals. Some people have many more gifts than others, and some have fewer gifts than others. The amount of our God-given ability has nothing to do with our standing in God's eyes. God loves His children and blesses them because He has declared them righteous for Christ's sake. All that we are and have is a gift from God.

All children are important to us as parents and teachers because they are God's children. We understand that God holds us accountable for each student's well-being under our care. This then sets the groundwork for our homework expectations. May God bless our efforts as parents and teachers as we strive to develop the talents and abilities of God's precious children.

- 1) St. Paul's has a unified grading scale for grades Kindergarten through eighth grade. There is a different set of grades for certain subjects in the lower grades of K-2. The grading scale does not allow for double or triple F's or for greater levels of failure. Failure is failure. The lowest grade possible for any assignment is 69%. There is one exception for late work to the grading policy. **Late work will be graded down** according to how late the work is turned in. If a student does not turn late work in **after 3 school days, that work may receive a 0%.**
- 2) Teachers are required to know whether a child has not been handing in his/her work in an acceptable manner. This means that a child should not fall behind in his/her work more than several school days before the parents are notified.
- 3) Parents and teachers should keep in contact with one another concerning a student's work habits and homework. This can be done with notes being sent home, phone calls, emails, or parent-teacher meetings. Parents need to keep in contact with teachers by reviewing their child's work regularly.
- 4) All teachers are responsible to fill out regular quarterly report cards based on performance for each student. These reports need to be completed on time. Each teacher is required to keep a grade book where the child's work can be verified. In grade 3-8, a midterm report for the 1st and 3rd quarters are also provided for the parents.
- 5) Student's papers will be sent home in any manner that a teacher chooses. Parents should insist that their child brings the papers home that the teacher has corrected. Parents are encouraged to review the papers on a regular basis.
- 6) If parents request, special programs will be set up for those students that need help in organizing their work and keeping their parents informed. Any particular program to assist students will be organized by the teacher and discussed with the parents. Teachers and parents will need to partner together on such special programs if students are to be successful in their work.
- 7) Parents and teachers need to recognize the importance of homework as part of the academic program of any school. Both parents and teachers need to exercise common sense in their expectations concerning homework. Too little homework can cause problems as well as too much homework. All homework needs to be age and grade appropriate to be successful.

May God bless our work as we strive to guide our students to develop their God-given abilities.

Guidelines for Homework per Grade

<u>Grade:</u>	<u>Homework:</u>	<u>Time spent doing homework at home:</u>
Kindergarten	Read Bible Stories at home, learn memory work, practice letter/sight word/math flashcards, and spend time reading together.	
First Grade	Read Bible Stories at home, spelling words, learn memory work, spend time reading together and do math drill.	No more than 10-20 minutes.
Second Grade	Read Bible Stories at home, spelling words, review memory work, spend time reading together and do math drill.	No more than 20-30 minutes.
Third Grade	Learn memory work, spend time reading together, math drill, spelling words and monitor some assignments.	No more than 30-40 minutes.
Fourth Grade	Learn memory work, spend time reading together, math drill, spelling words and monitor some assignments.	No more than 40-50 minutes.
Fifth Grade	Learn memory work, spend time reading together, math drill, spelling words and monitor some assignments.	No more than 50-60 minutes.
Sixth Grade	Learn memory work, catechism study, memorize hymns, review for tests and quizzes, complete assignments, and special projects.	No more than 60-70 minutes.
Seventh Grade	Learn memory work, catechism study, memorize hymns, review for tests and quizzes, complete assignments, and special projects.	No more than 70-80 minutes.
Eighth Grade	Learn memory work, confirmation study, memorize hymns, review for tests and quizzes, complete assignments, and special projects.	No more than 80-90 minutes.

Incomplete Homework for Grades 3-8

Homework for the students in the middle and upper grades can be a problem at times. It is a serious concern for the teachers when students do not use their talents and complete their assignments on time. For those students that do not complete their work on time, every effort to assist these students will be made. Here is where parental support of the teachers is needed most. The following guidelines apply to late work:

1. Incomplete work is any assignment that is not finished and handed in by the time the teacher has designated as a deadline.
2. If there are extenuating reasons (illness, family emergency, etc.) for incomplete work, parents should communicate with the teacher explaining why it is incomplete.
3. When assignments are incomplete on a regular basis, the classroom teacher will notify the parents (i.e., A phone call home, a note sent to the parents, or an e-mail message). Teachers and parents need to communicate regularly in these cases.
 - a. The teacher will ask the parent to monitor the student's assignments each night.
 - b. The parents need to stay in communication with the teacher by watching faithfully the assignments and their completion.
4. Students that consistently fail to complete their assignments over many days and weeks could be required to serve an in-school suspension or an out-of-school suspension.
5. Every effort will be made by teacher and parent working together to provide the proper guidance to these students who struggle with their homework.
6. Special needs students will be under a program designed by the Learning Coordinator and classroom teacher based on the parent's or teacher's request.

Make-up Homework

After a student has been absent from school, arrangements should be made with the teacher to make up any work that has been missed. If a student will be absent for several days or longer, arrangements would be made with the teacher so that part of the make-up work may be done during the absence. Teachers can use their discretion to adjust make-up work requirements. Grading of make-up work will follow the unified grading scale policy.

If you plan an extended vacation during the school year, please provide the school with ample notice. This notice should be given to the teacher by the parent and not through the student. Parents are responsible for the student completing all make-up work during a vacation absence in a reasonable amount of time. Parents should not request assignments from the teacher any more than one week in advance of the impending vacation. The teacher may adjust the assignments according to their discretion while teaching the lesson. Students that struggle in school with academic work should not be removed from school for extended periods of time for family activities.

Any number of excessive days absent or tardy by a student, which may cause concern for the welfare of the child's education, may be brought to the attention of the School Administrator, parents, the truancy officer, Human Services, and the St. Paul's Education Committee.