



# President's Reflections

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January 9, 2015

## Why Have Homework?

"Do you have any homework?" I believe the most often heard question for children when walking in the door after a day at school is, as a parent, we want to make sure this area of "need" is covered or completed as quickly as possible. We all know the difficulty of completing the work when our children are tired and cranky and the assignment seems to be a long and arduous journey. So why do we have our children complete homework?

Of course the homework needs to be reasonable and useful in promoting learning. Our teachers realize that excessive homework can have the opposite effect of what is desired and can become a burden. Needless to say, we don't intend to create frustration for our parents and students. We do intend to foster a positive learning environment at home and at school.

In these challenging times in education, it takes a unified effort between home and school for students to be successful. The challenges for our young people have increased each year and the learning curve has grown steeper with the many additional requirements. Our parents become an integral part of the learning process because of these many challenges.

Additionally, homework is a positive way that parents can remain in touch with their children and to gather a real understanding of what is required of them in school. Homework is an opportunity for parents to be a teacher at home and for their children to do better in school. Homework is a great way for students to model replicate the learning process taught at school.

### Here are a few more reasons we have homework:

- Homework helps students learn more. When students review material at home, they remember it longer and understand it better.
- Homework teaches students that learning takes place everywhere. Through regular homework assignments, students see that learning takes place in the home and in the community as well as in the classroom.
- Homework teaches self-discipline. It's often difficult to sit down and "have at it" with the homework. But when a student gets into the habit of regular homework, they learn the rewards of self-discipline.
- Homework helps teach students to use their time wisely. Planning is an important skill for completing homework...and for later success in life.

So, there are some very practical reasons for having homework. The danger lies in our frustration level as parents with our children. I believe that a parent connection and partnership with the child and the teacher is one of the most important activities or events that can happen. The joy that a parent receives when seeing their child learn and develop can be incredible. Use homework as a tool for completing this connection with school and with learning.

As we say always, "Our parents make the greatest difference in the success of their children." Thank you for being there for your children.