

THE SOLOMON SCHECHTER DAY SCHOOL HOMEWORK GUIDELINES

At Schechter, homework is considered an important vehicle for growth and development. Completing and turning in assignments promptly adds to the success of students in school and teaches organizational skills and responsibility. The faculty is aware of the heavy demands made upon the time and energy of students in a day school. In assigning homework, teachers will take into account the importance of Shabbat observance and holiday celebrations.

The following guidelines describe optimal expectations for homework at Schechter:

- I. The purpose of homework is:
 - A. to reinforce, review, and practice lessons from class.
 - B. to extend thinking beyond that done in class.
 - C. to teach discipline and responsibility.
 - D. to learn to organize and prioritize work.

- II. Appropriate types of homework assignments include:
 - A. nightly reading, writing, or study.
 - B. unfinished work from the school day.
 - C. material taught, but never new material.
 - D. long term projects such as book reports, or research reports.
 - E. assignments that are developmentally appropriate.

- III. The appropriate amount of scheduled time for homework excluding recreational reading is on average:
 - A. K-2 10 - 20 minutes
 - B. 3-5 30 - 50 minutes
 - C. Middle school60 - 90 minutes

- IV. Homework Responsibilities
 - A. It is the responsibility of the student to:
 1. be aware of what work has been assigned and when it is due.
 2. give one's best effort while working on each assignment.
 3. be prepared in class having completed homework assignments on time.
 4. complete milestones for long term projects.
 5. complete homework assignments independently.
 6. identify problems related to homework and communicate them directly to the teacher at designated times.

- B. It is the responsibility of the parent to:
 - 1. provide a proper environment and time for homework.
 - 2. be aware of homework assignments.
 - 3. help students become increasingly independent in doing homework.
 - 4. identify problems related to homework and communicate them to the teacher.

- C. It is the responsibility of the teacher to:
 - 1. communicate instructions and expectations clearly.
 - 2. assign homework that is meaningful and provide appropriate and timely feedback to students and, when necessary, to parents.
 - 3. monitor progress on long term projects.
 - 4. develop a culture of cooperation and coordination so that:
 - a. homework assigned by teachers of the same subject is consistent.
 - b. the total amount of homework assigned by a grade level team at one time is regulated.
 - 5. estimate how long it should take to complete an assignment and consistently communicate this to students via the assignment notebook and/or homework hotline.
 - 6. be available to listen and be responsive to student and parent concerns regarding homework.

- V. Communication between home and school should be initiated when:
 - A. homework is often incomplete.
 - B. homework is not completed on time.
 - C. directions are often not followed.
 - D. after reasonable effort the student is unable to complete homework in the expected amount of time.
 - E. after reasonable effort the student is unable to understand either the directions or the assignment.
 - F. after reasonable effort the student is often overwhelmed by homework assignments.
 - G. the student is consistently not challenged by assignments.
 - H. homework is consistently a source of frustration.

- VI. Mechanisms for communication include:
 - A. e-mail.
 - B. phone call to the teacher via school office.
 - C. written note to teacher.