



Falls Road Primary Independent Public School

Challenge the Present – Create the Future

Home Study Guidelines

RATIONALE:

Our goal is to develop a culture which promotes Life Long Learning. A critical factor in this is facilitating effective study habits. This will have additional benefits such as supporting a positive transition to high school. It is possible for all students to develop the skills necessary to be successful in High School. Making studying, not just homework a daily habit, is important to ensure a successful transition to the High School environment. Those who are not successful often do not lack the intellectual ability but lack well developed study skills. One strategy to facilitate this is the development of effective Home Study Skills. The focus for the development of study skills at home is in Year 5, 6 & 7.

PROCEDURES

The following suggestions will assist parents in supporting the development of Home Study Skills:

- * Discuss the school day – successes and things which the child finds hard and would like some help with
- * Implement goal setting for school and home eg family goals and personal goals such as reading targets
- * Create a belief / expectation that learning can / will take place
- * Encourage your child to read – may be related to school or could be the newspaper
- * Visit the local Library – direct book selection towards topics being studied in class thus increasing knowledge base
- * Make sure students know the list of High Frequency spelling words which students need to understand and be able to spell accurately
- * Practise the relevant spelling rules and literacy strategies to improve spelling
- * Practise their Basic Facts up to and including 10 x 10 and emphasise how pivotal this knowledge is and that it underpins and facilitates so much other learning in this area.
- * Talk real life mathematics at home – money, measurement etc
- * Use Mathematics to practise areas of weakness. This program is fantastic as it is specific to each individual.
(All students with a computer have access to this from home)
- * Use the information and activities for NAPLAN for practice and revision
(These will be available early in term one each year)
- * In the case of new initiatives / programs / focuses – the school can provide a summary of the skills / strategies / which could be practised / studied.

Where there is a specific area of focus in a classroom, the teacher can communicate this to parents who can then support their child/children to study this.

Appendix one

The following list of hints is divided into four sections:

1. State of Mind - you have to make a conscious effort to study effectively - it takes a lot of effort and motivation.
2. Time Management - there is no fast and easy way to study, studying takes a lot of time.
3. Study Skills - Note that three components are common to all effective study strategies:
4. Test Taking Tips - taking tests effectively so that you can demonstrate what you know is a skill just as studying is.

In the following paragraphs you will find many different ideas and strategies for developing effective study skills. There are potentially as many different strategies used by successful students to study effectively as there are successful students. Each student must find what strategies work best for them.

State of Mind

Remember that you are here because you want to learn, nobody is forcing you to do this. Don't create barriers to learning by thinking of your class work as an obstacle. Make an effort to remind yourself that you want to understand the material! It is all part of a process preparing you to achieve what you want to be. Look for the positive - the more you learn the more you will understand the world around you and the more self-reliant you will be.

Time Management

Effective studying takes time, lots of time. It is imperative that you manage your time effectively. Draw out your weekly schedule and plan your study time (schedule study periods just like a class).

Don't wait and try to pack in unreasonable numbers of study hours before a test, plan ahead. Study 50 minute hours with 10 minute breaks, and don't forget to schedule in time for yourself or spend time with family members.

1. Plan ahead; prepare a calendar for the term / semester.
2. Draw out your weekly schedule. Set blocks of time aside for homework and study. Remember you need time to sleep, eat, and play! so be realistic, there are only 24 hours in a day.
3. Stick to your study schedule - establishing and maintaining a regular schedule of study so that you know what you are going to study and when will dramatically reduce wasted time.
4. Create a checklist of work that must be done each week (i.e. chapters to be read...) and hang this list at your study area. Check off items as you complete them.

Study Skills

Study Skills - Note that three components are common to all effective study strategies:

- (1) Repetition (repeating the information in your own words / images),
- (2) Effort (making a conscious effort to understand and remember the information being studied),
- (3) Time (there is no quick and easy way to learn, it takes work, time, and motivation!).

Appendix 2

Tests

When the time comes to take a test do not just jump in and race to finish. Take your time, relax, and do your best. Remember, it is only a test.

- Read the questions thoroughly - make sure you understand what is being asked.
- For multiple choice questions, read through all choices before picking an answer.
- Read through the test and answer what you know first - don't get stuck on questions you don't know, skip them and come back to them later.
- Go back and work through the questions you were not sure of the first time (warning: if you look at a question that you answered and you think you should change your answer but you still are not sure - don't change it! Only change answers that you are sure are incorrect).
- Do not leave any questions blank - watch your time.
- If time permits review your test to make sure you didn't leave any questions blank, or to double check questions you were unsure of (note previous warning).
- Watch for danger words in multiple choice and true-false questions like "all," "always," "every," "never," and "none". Because there are no exceptions to the statement when these words are used the statement is often false.
- Essay questions often require you to make a statement that answers the question and supports it with facts. For this type of essay question teachers do not want your opinion, they want to see how well you can support your point. Reminder: be clear and complete; never assume that the teacher will know what you mean - answer the question as if explaining it to someone who knows nothing about the subject.
- Be neat - if the teacher cannot read it they may not give you credit for it.