



St. Gerard Majella School

Home learning Policy

PREAMBLE

We at St Gerard Majella School believe that home learning should be reflective of the well-being and development of children at primary school age and provide opportunities for families to share in learning experiences. To this end, in line with current research, we do not believe that there are any benefits in providing home learning in its traditional sense. St Gerard Majella also acknowledges that research has found that home learning can have negative effects on student well-being, cause inequities between students and cause tension in the family. Learning disabilities, socio-economic and language/cultural factors also impact on a student's capacity to engage in home learning.

St Gerard Majella cites research which shows that daily reading for all students has academic benefits for all primary aged students. Besides reading, research shows that time spent on other home learning activities has little or no effect on academic performance. "The average correlation between time spent on home learning and achievements was substantial for secondary school students, but for elementary school students had hovered around no relationship at all." (Professor Harris Cooper). St Gerard Majella does acknowledge that students in the upper primary grades may benefit from home learning tasks that will prepare them for the demands of high school by supporting them in developing study skills and assisting them in increasing their organizational capacities.

St Gerard Majella School acknowledges that involvement in other activities outside the school curriculum is beneficial for students. It can engage them in other ways to learn, develop passions and interests and skills such as teamwork and communication. It is recognized that children are constantly learning from their experiences and engagement with the environment and the people in it. Time away from formal learning can also reduce stress on individuals and families. This valuable down-time can actually provide the necessary time needed for children to process new learning.

POLICY

At St Gerard Majella, home learning will mainly focus on encouraging students to read, either independently or with an adult. Home learning will also provide feedback and opportunities for the learning that occurs during class to be shared in the home environment. Home learning will take into account the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, recreation and cultural pursuits.

VALUES

Community, Equity, Responsibility Compassion, Justice, Commitment, Endurance, Communication and Sense of Wonder

PRINCIPLES

1. Teachers are required to communicate home learning expectations clearly to parents at the commencement of each year and as required throughout the year.
2. Home learning will consist of core activities and may include elective activities:

Core Activities – includes daily reading and comprehension for all grades and may include some preparation for students in upper primary (Grades 5&6). Core activities may also include the collection of materials and resources to enhance learning projects in class (eg collecting family photos for an investigation) and preparation and practice for oral language tasks.

Elective Activities – promote health and well-being, prayer and reflection and may include the interests, hobbies, home responsibilities, sports and activities of the students. It may also include additional academic work as revision of class work, spelling or number facts. These options will allow students and families to select activities according to interests and needs.

3. **Prep- Grade 4** – will consist of daily reading and comprehension. Students can read with/to a family member or carer and/or read independently. Students may also be asked to share their learning with someone at home or collect resources and prepare for class activities.
4. **Grade 5&6** – will consist of independent reading and comprehension. It may include the sharing of learning occurring at school and preparation for upcoming lessons. Consideration will be made for students who do not have access to the necessary equipment or conditions for home learning. In preparation for high school, home learning may consist of the completion of class work and some assignment tasks to assist students in managing their time.
5. Weekly home learning may be set to include the weekend period to accommodate working family life. Home learning will not extend over holiday periods.
6. Teachers will need to differentiate the level of home learning for students as needed.
7. Home learning and feedback to parents will be consistent across classes in year levels.
8. Teachers may provide students and parents with optional opportunities to engage in self-monitored, online learning such as Reading Eggs and Study Ladder.

Appendices

Inquiry into the approaches to home learning in Victorian schools. Parliament of Victoria 2014

<http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/57th-parliament/etc/article/2173>

The real truth about home learning. Maggie Dent 2009

<http://www.maggiedent.com/content/real-truth-about-home-learning>

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's renewal cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Board on XXXX

Chair Signature