

HOMEWORK AND RETENTION POLICIES

HOMEWORK POLICY:

The purpose of homework is to reinforce what has been taught during the day and to promote independent study habits. Therefore, it is not just to keep the child busy after school or to satisfy parents. Homework does not have to be a written assignment.

The homework schedule is as follows: (*Approximate time allotments*)

First through Third Grades:	20 – 40 minutes
Fourth and Fifth Grades:	30 – 40 minutes
Sixth through Eighth Grades:	60 – 90 minutes

Homework can be in a child's room or at the kitchen table – the specific room makes little difference. The important elements are adequate lighting, comfortable seating, sufficient work surfaces, good ventilation, and space to store study materials. Noises such as radio and television should be shut out. Reference materials such as a computer, dictionary, an atlas, and an encyclopedia should be available, either at home or from the public library.

At the beginning of the year, each child receives a “Homework Assignment Book”, sometimes referred to as an “Agenda”. The children are required to write down their homework assignments at the end of each day in the agenda. The agenda will need to be signed by either a parent or responsible adult confirming the fact that all homework assignments are complete. This will alleviate any incomplete assignments for the next school day. Important messages from the teacher or messages that were not distributed through the Thursday folder can be written in the assignment book. This is also an assurance that messages have been received.

Children accruing five (5) incomplete homework assignments in any given subject area will have their grade lowered one point. For example: If a child has a “B” average but had five (5) incomplete homework assignments during the nine-week grading period, the child will receive a “C” on his/her report card. Children make up many excuses as to why homework assignments are not completed. The only time teachers will be permitted to accept an excuse will be when a child has a written note in their agenda from the parents stating the reason why the assignment is incomplete. Emergency situations are the only time homework will be excused; not because there was basketball or cheerleading practice or because the child got home too late from shopping!

RETENTION POLICY:

It will be the policy of St. Patrick School that any child averaging an “F” in any of the major subject areas (Religion, Math, Science, English, Social Studies or Reading) will be retained in that grade level unless the child attends summer school to make up work missed. Summer school is required to be at an accredited public school or an accredited program such as Sylvan or Huntington Learning Center.

Parents will be notified, in writing, when a child is in danger of being retained. A conference between the parents, teacher and principal will be held at that time. The school guidance counselor will also be invited to attend the conference as well, to make any recommendations to the parents regarding how best to help their child.