

Work ahead Homework in vogue at SDSS

Is homework still in vogue at Stouffville District Secondary School?

Yes it is, says Principal Peter Bright.

In a recently prepared statement on the subject, Mr. Bright leaves no doubt. The Tribune is pleased to publish his reply, as follows:

"It would seem that examination time is a good opportunity to reflect on the academic process.

This should help students and parents alike as they decide on what changes might be

necessary once they see the report card!

Yes, we still assign homework. Parents should expect the student to bring notebooks and textbooks home each night.

There are three activities that should be included in homework:

FIRST — read over and learn what was taught today. It may be necessary to rewrite notes or add information. On average, it should only take two to five minutes to review and learn what was taught.

SECOND — do the assigned homework. If the day's lesson has been mastered, it should probably only take 10 to 15 minutes to do this. If a major assignment has been given, schedule time to do some work on the assignment each night.

THIRD — read ahead in the textbook. Before leaving class, ask your teacher what the topic for the next lesson is so you can do some reading before class. Reading ahead gives you an insight into the topic and it will make it much easier for you to understand the lesson. If you

understand the lesson, you will make better notes and you will be able to review your notes faster and more efficiently.

How does a good student become a poor student?

The average student learns about 82 per cent of the lesson. Within six to eight hours, he or she will have forgotten eight to 12 per cent.

This means the same student who chooses to do homework without first reviewing is trying to work with only 70 per cent of the required knowledge.

Consider the consequences of this over two weeks.

Each day, the student knows less and less of what is required. In time, the student won't do homework because "I can't."

Neither will he or she attempt to participate in class.

Students need support from their parents, not to help with homework, but to ensure they have time each night to do their homework.

Parents should not accept the excuse, "I don't have any homework." Review and reading ahead should be done at home each night.

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