

Shrewsbury Borough School

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

Last spring, the Shrewsbury Board of Education and the administration hosted a 'homework articulation' meant to develop strong communication between our classroom educators and parents regarding our current homework policies and procedures. We spent an afternoon in May discussing several important areas of homework including the quality and quantity of homework, the instructional purpose of homework, and teacher evaluation of homework and subsequent support. Questions that our participants discussed included:

- How long should it take for students to complete homework?
- How much homework should teachers assign at different grade levels?
- What is the difference between thoughtful homework and busy work?
- What kind of homework is best?
- What type of homework can give students opportunities to learn independently?
- Will an assignment place material in a context the classroom cannot?
- How can homework serve as an extension of learning rather than a reinforcement of learning?
- What is the right balance of the two?
- Will an assignment encourage future success and how do we design homework to accomplish this?
- How should teachers respond to students' homework?
- How should homework be used or viewed by teachers?
- What role do answer keys or other types of online feedback play in assigning homework?
- How does an assignment offer support for the learner when the teacher is not available?
- Overarching question:
 - How can all learners and their individual needs be considered?

The process was relatively simple, parent volunteers rotated through three stations of faculty members to discuss each topic area and worked collaboratively to answer some guiding questions. The dialogue during each of these sessions was cordial but substantive and everyone who was involved was able to share perceptions and information while also appreciating the experiences of everyone else at the table.

I want to thank everyone who was part of this important homework conversation.

Please see attached some notes from the homework articulation.

Very sincerely,

Brent A. MacConnell

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Superintendent