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Dear Orland School District 135 Families,

The purpose of this letter is to provide further explanation regarding policy 6:290, Homework. This explanation will provide clarification on aspects of this policy. Please keep in mind, that this varies based on grade level and developmental level of our students.

- Homework will still be assigned as appropriate and required as it has in the past.
- The amount and type of homework assigned may be guided by teacher decisions and how specific, actionable, and timely feedback is provided to students.
- Homework may be rated, graded, or scored based on teacher discretion, and it is still reflected in the student management system, currently PowerSchool (according to a teacher's system for doing so). Scoring of homework is a reflection of how students are progressing in class.
- The purpose of homework is to provide independent practice which gives teachers information to adjust instruction and improve student mastery of standards. As a result, homework is not averaged into the final academic grade, because students are expected to make errors as part of the learning process.
- Homework still "counts." It counts so that students and their parents can actively participate in the learning process by demonstrating what students are learning.
- If a student does not do their homework, it may be handled just as it would as if they did not do their work in class (classroom management or building protocol).
- If a task is important enough to be assigned, it is just as important for to submit the assignment to afford their teacher the opportunity to provide timely, actionable, specific, and descriptive feedback.
- A meaningful consequence for not submitting an assignment may be attached to the lack of evidence provided by a student of what he or she is learning.
- The work, or demonstration of what the student can do is a necessary part of the learning process.
- The importance of homework is that prescriptive assignments are utilized by the teacher to report where students are at in relationship to demonstrating mastery through application of the learning standards.
- Demonstration of student learning to guide instruction and to provide the student with feedback on how to improve and continue learning the keystone to the learning process.
- Differentiation will always apply based on the needs of each student.

We hope this provides you with some clarification and support that homework may still be assigned and required. It can serve as a connection between home and school and provide students with opportunities to practice what has been taught in class and to strengthen their skills.

Sincerely,

The Department of Teaching and Learning