

Honeywell Update- September 28, 2016

Homework and its usefulness... good evening Highland Park, this is Dr. Taylor with a message about a subject that generates much debate. There is extensive research on homework, and our school district's strategic plan, The Pathway to Excellence, calls for a rich and thorough discussion through the 2016-2017 school year to look at how, why, and when our teachers assign daily homework.

Without waiting to revisit our homework protocol, I have notified all of our teachers that they should be sensitive to the needs of our religiously observant students and to use good judgement and understanding when assigning homework, tests, etc. Many religious holidays call for rest, reflection, and piety, and it is incumbent upon us to suspend our after-school expectations for the duration of the holiday periods. The religious holidays are upon us as Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur begin this Sunday evening and Diwali, the Hindu holiday often referred to as the festival of lights that signifies the victory of good over evil, begins October 30.

I encourage you to read two articles about homework available from very trusted resources that I have made available. You can download the first article from the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development by going to www.taylorleadership.net/homeworkresearch.pdf. The second article, from the George Lucas Education Foundation's website Edutopia, can be found at www.taylorleadership.net/homeworkresearch2.pdf. Being well informed about the studies on homework will help our community forge a protocol that will support our student's academic achievement without sacrificing their social-emotional health and well-being.

I'll be in touch with everyone about progress toward achieving goal A1.1.k that calls for the district's leadership team to conduct research on homework effectiveness and practices in other school districts to consider change in K-12 implementation. Our research will include, but not be limited to, community survey and focus group input.

More to come about the way your school leaders, faculty, and staff are tending to the strategic plan and making our school district world class. For now, have a good night.