

## HOMework POLICY

### I. DEFINITION

Homework is a constructive tool in the teaching/learning process when geared to the needs, learning styles, and abilities of students. Purposeful assignments not only enhance student achievement but also develop self-discipline and associated good working habits. As an extension of the classroom, homework must be planned and organized, must be viewed as purposeful to the students, and should be evaluated and returned to students in a timely manner.

Teachers will give homework to students to aid in the students' educational development. Homework should be an application or adaptation of a classroom experience and should not be assigned for disciplinary purposes.

Teachers shall carefully explain to their students the desired outcome of homework assignments and how homework assignments relate to the grading system.

### II. GUIDELINES FOR TEACHERS

#### A. High Schools

1. All teachers/teams will regularly assign homework.
2. All teachers/teams should determine/coordinate the length and nature of homework assignments based on the ability level of the students and/or the academic level of the course. Homework assignments should not exceed, on average, two hours total per night, with the exception of reading assignments or when additional practice is needed for an individual student. Advanced Placement (AP) classes shall not be subject to homework limitations.
3. Homework should not be due on the day immediately following a one-day school holiday, a school vacation, or a nationally recognized holiday.
4. Long-term assignments (two or more weeks) may be given in all subject areas. Long-term assignments should not be due the day following a one-day school holiday, a three-day weekend, a school vacation period, or a nationally recognized holiday. However, long-term assignments may span any of the school vacation periods listed.
5. Teachers/teams should assist students in becoming aware of the need to budget their time so that assignments are gradually completed over the span of time set by the teacher.
6. At the beginning of the term, the teacher should always make clear to the students his/her policy regarding the grading of homework and its effect on the final grade.
7. Teachers need to be sensitive to students' availability and access to resources outside of the school setting which may be necessary for the completion of homework and/or long-term assignments.
8. Group homework assignments are an important learning tool that shall only be assigned when the teacher is willing to closely monitor the group dynamics and provide guidance on group interactions to the greatest extent possible. School facilities should be utilized to complete group assignments.

B. Middle Schools

1. All teachers/teams will regularly assign homework.
2. All teachers/teams should determine/coordinate the length and nature of homework assignments based on the ability level of the students and/or the academic level of the course. Homework assignments should not exceed, on average, one and one-half hours total, per night, with the exception of reading assignments or when additional practice is needed for an individual student.
3. Homework assignments should not be due on the day immediately following a one-day school holiday, a school vacation, or a nationally recognized holiday.
4. Long-term assignments (two or more weeks) may be given in all subject areas. Long-term assignments should not be made due following a one-day school holiday, a three-day weekend, a school vacation, or a nationally recognized holiday. However, long-term assignments may span any of the school vacation periods listed.
5. Teachers/teams should assist students in becoming aware of the need to budget their time so that these assignments are gradually completed over the span of time set by the teacher.
6. At the beginning of the term, the teacher should always make clear to the students and parents his/her policy regarding the grading of homework and its effect on the final grade.
7. Teachers need to be sensitive to students' availability and access to resources outside of the school setting, which may be necessary for the completion of homework and/or long-term assignments.
8. Group homework assignments are an important learning tool that shall only be assigned when the teacher is willing to closely monitor the group dynamics and provide guidance on group interactions to the greatest extent possible. School facilities should be utilized to complete group assignments.

C. Elementary Schools

1. All teachers/teams will regularly assign homework.
2. All teachers/teams should determine/coordinate the length and nature of homework assignments based on the ability level of the students and/or the curricular demands of the subject area.
3. Homework assignments should not be due on the day immediately following a one-day school holiday, a three-day weekend, a school vacation, or a nationally recognized holiday.
4. Long-term assignments (two or more weeks) may be given in all subject areas. Long-term assignments should not be made due the day following a one-day school holiday, a three-day weekend, a school vacation, or a nationally recognized holiday. However, long-term assignments may span any of the school vacation periods listed.
5. Teachers/teams should assist students in becoming aware of the need to budget their time so that these assignments are gradually completed over the span of time set by the teacher.
6. At the beginning of the term, the teacher should always make clear to the students and parents his/her policy regarding the grading of homework and its effect on the final grade.

7. Teachers need to be sensitive to students' availability and access to resources outside of the school setting, which may be necessary for the completion of homework and/or long-term assignments.
8. The length of time required for the satisfactory completion of homework assignments should usually:
  - a. Not exceed, on average, 20 minutes for grades K-2
  - b. Not exceed, on average, 40 minutes for grades 3 & 4
  - c. Not exceed, on average, 60 minutes for grades 5 & 6
9. Homework shall be assigned as an individual task and not as a group project. (Group work is a classroom activity.)

### III. PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

#### A. Guidelines for Parents

1. Establish and maintain a positive attitude toward education in the home by making the completion of homework assignments a priority in your child's daily routine.
2. Provide a quiet area in the home conducive to helping your child study and complete assignments.
3. Provide your child with necessary materials; e.g., paper, pens, pencils, dictionary, reference books, etc. Computer access is encouraged.
4. Help your child if he/she is having difficulty but do not do the assignment for him/her.
5. Become informed about the teacher's requirements and expectations for daily and long-range homework assignments.
6. Become informed about before- and/or after-school academic support that may be available for your child.

#### B. Make-Up Work When Your Child Is On Vacation

Families are encouraged to schedule vacations in conjunction with the school calendar. However, we are aware that due to adult schedules, the family vacation sometimes has to be taken when school is in session. We know that travel can be a wonderfully enriching experience for everyone. To help your child get the most from a vacation, and more importantly, to be true to our belief that class work should only be assigned after it has been taught, the following vacation guidelines have been developed:

1. Schoolwork will not be provided prior to vacations, but assigned upon return. The classroom teacher may modify the amount of the work.
2. At the elementary level, parents may have children do any of the following activities while on vacation. These may be shared with the student's classmates on return to school: scrapbooks, picture diary, journal, maps marked with places/dates.
3. Students are always encouraged to read while on vacation. This will greatly enhance both their trip and their academic skills and knowledge.