

HOMWORK

Parents and students themselves should hold the primary right to control time beyond the school day. Students gain valuable knowledge, and grow and develop from participation in athletics and the arts, volunteering, spending time with family and loved ones, working jobs, participating in religious community, managing household and family duties, and pursuing their own particular interests. Teachers can best support the wellbeing of students by regularly considering whether additional practice or extension is truly necessary before assigning homework and potentially diverting time away from these other valuable activities.

Teachers should be afforded trust and latitude to exercise their professional judgement in assigning the homework necessary to best support the academic goals of students. Student academic success will increase relative to the amount of effort each student puts into their studies. Parents can best support student achievement by establishing family protocols regarding when and where homework should be done, and by allowing for regular homework time within their child's schedule.

Homework assignments should be created thoughtfully and assigned judiciously. Homework assignments should not be given to students that require resources and references that are not accessible to them. Good homework assignments meet the following expectations: they are designed with the express purpose of motivating and engaging students outside of school; they are developmentally appropriate and constructed flexibly to best support individual learning needs; they directly support and/or enrich the curriculum. Finally, the grading of homework should be deemphasized; if homework is not being completed, teachers should attempt to "diagnose" the problem and communicate with the family.

Building principals will ensure teachers develop and implement an effective homework plan in their classrooms that is consistent with district policy and school handbook language. School level-specific items will be included in Student Handbooks and will address the following issues related to homework: minute restrictions; students with disabilities; accommodations; differentiation; weekends, vacations, and recess; contribution to weighted average; homework missed as a result of absence, and coordination of homework between general education teachers, special education teachers, and interventionists.

State and federal laws require schools to make reasonable accommodation to the religious needs of students and employees in observance of holy days. Mansfield Public Schools appreciates and understands that religious observances often involve family activities. Students should not be expected to complete homework, study for tests, or complete other school work during their absence or observance. Students will be given the opportunity to make up this work within the appropriate amount of time determined by the teacher.

HOMEWORK

Revised: May 08, 2018

LEGAL REF: MGL, Chapter 151C, section 2B, Absence of student due to religious beliefs

CROSS REF: ADF Wellness Policy and Plan
JH Student Absences and Excuses

REFS: Barrington Public Schools
Dover-Sherborn Public Schools
Lexington Public Schools
Marshfield Public Schools
Needham Public Schools
Sharon Public Schools