

## HOMEWORK GUIDELINES FOR HANDBOOKS

**High School**

At the high school level, research supports that homework more positively impacts learning than at any previous level. The more effort students put into their learning, the greater academic gains they make.

- Homework should not be assigned over Thanksgiving and December vacations.
- Routine homework should not exceed 20% of the total weighted average for a course.
- Homework, if assigned, should not exceed 2.5 hours per night total for all courses (~25 min. per course).
- Students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses should expect more homework every night, following the curriculum set by the College Board for each course.
- Homework assignments should be developmentally appropriate and constructed flexibly to best support individual learning needs. Students on Individual Education Plans (IEPs), Section 504 Plans, or Response to Intervention Protocols (RTI) may also have the amount or type of homework adjusted based upon their individual plans in accordance with the District Curriculum Accommodation Plan (DCAP).
- If homework is missed as a result of absence, make-up work will be provided to the student upon return, and the student will receive a minimum of one day for every day absent.
- If summer assignments are given, they should be accompanied by instructions indicating how a student with questions would seek guidance/assistance during the summer. Students enrolled in AP courses may have summer assignments, following the curriculum set by the College Board for each course.

**Middle School****HOMEWORK**

Homework is an extension of learning at school. Homework provides practice and drills that reinforce classroom learning, as well as opportunities for independent study, research, and creative thinking. Parents can help their children by seeing that assignments are completed.

At the middle school level, research supports that homework can positively impact learning. The more effort students put into their learning, the greater academic gains they make. Middle level students are experiencing an in-between stage as they transition from a more self-contained setting at the Elementary level to a departmentalized environment in High School. Middle School teaming facilitates this transition. Teachers use common planning time to ensure the workload of homework assignments and assessments is balanced and developmentally appropriate to best support individual learning needs.

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Please note, the homework times that follow are not meant to be a literal interpretation. The time notation is a reasonable guideline of the homework expectations during the middle school years.

- Homework should not be assigned over the following school vacations: Thanksgiving, December, February, and April.
- Routine homework may account for 10-15% of the total weighted average for a course, but will not exceed 15%.
- Homework, including studying, if assigned, should not exceed 1.5 hours per night total for all courses. Teams and teachers should collaborate to ensure that homework and studying should not exceed 1.5 hours per night.
- Consideration will be given to students with disabilities when assigning homework. General education teachers should coordinate with the special education liaison to ensure the amount and type of homework assigned is appropriate based on individual student needs and Individual Education Plans. Students on Individual Education Plans (IEPs), Section 504 Plans, or Response-to-Intervention (RTI) Protocols may also have the amount or type of homework adjusted based on their individual plans and in accordance with the District Curriculum Accommodation Plan (DCAP).
- A student will have two days for every day missed to make up the missed work. Teachers are not required to give out homework assignments prior to a family vacation.
- If summer assignments are given, they should be accompanied by instructions indicating how a student with questions would seek guidance/assistance during the summer.

### Elementary School

#### **HOMEWORK**

Homework is an extension of a student's learning and the child's teacher will communicate the specific expectations for homework. It may take the form of practice to strengthen skills, deepening the understanding of concepts and content, a long-range project such as independent study, or product development related to curriculum. Parents/guardians are encouraged to support their child's learning by providing a designated place and time for homework. Each grade level has a guideline for the frequency and length of assignments. The quantity of homework will require that students budget their time, but will not be so excessive that the work cannot be completed before normal bedtime. Assignments should be completed independently by the students. Parents/guardians are encouraged to help reinforce basic skills.

At the elementary level, research supports that students benefit from reading and/or being read to, and playing; there is less substantial benefit from homework. When students do have

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homework, research supports that they benefit from having a designated time and place to complete it.

Another major purpose of homework during the elementary years is to bring school and home into as close a partnership as possible. Homework gives families the opportunity to understand school expectations and to provide necessary help to support for the child. An example of family-school linkage is the involvement of parents in reading to their children on a daily basis.

## Lower Elementary (grades K - 2)

- Homework should be not be assigned on the weekends or over vacations (Thanksgiving, December, February, and April).
- Homework, if assigned, should never exceed 15 minutes a night, (exclusive of independent reading assignments).
- Homework should not be assigned for completion during recess, in accordance with the District's Wellness policy (#ADF).
- Consideration will be given to students with disabilities when assigning homework. General education teachers should coordinate the amount of homework assigned with the special education liaison or interventionist to ensure the total amount of time allocated for homework is aligned with the district policy. In addition, homework assignments will be aligned to the District Curriculum Accommodation Plan (DCAP).
- Students will be required to make up schoolwork resulting from absences or tardiness. It will be at the the discretion of the teacher to determine a feasible timeline for the completion of missed schoolwork.
- Summer reading, math, and enrichment may be suggested

## Upper Elementary (grades 3 - 5)

- Homework should be not be assigned on the weekends or over vacations (Thanksgiving, December, February, and April).
- Homework, if assigned, should never exceed 30 minutes a night, (exclusive of independent reading assignments).
- Homework should not be assigned for completion during recess, in accordance with the District's Wellness policy (#ADF).
- Consideration will be given to students with disabilities when assigning homework. General education teachers should coordinate the amount of homework assigned with the special education liaison or interventionist to ensure the total amount of time allocated for homework is aligned with the district policy. In addition, homework assignments will be aligned to the District Curriculum Accommodation Plan (DCAP).

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- Students will be required to make up schoolwork resulting from absences or tardiness. It will be at the discretion of the teacher to determine a feasible timeline for the completion of missed schoolwork.
- Summer reading, math and enrichment work may be suggested.

Adopted: May 08, 2018