

HOMEWORK POLICY

(approved by School Council, June 16, 2016)

Parents are asked to please read this policy with your child so that you understand the expectations for students and parents with regard to homework. Following these guidelines can help decrease tension associated with homework and increase your child's learning.

Definition of homework

Homework is understood to include any course or program activity that teachers request students to complete outside of class time. This activity may not only include written work but also reading, studying, working on a project, or doing research at the library or on the internet.

Purposes of homework

Educational research has shown that homework is very important and that there are four main purposes for assigning homework: (1) to give students opportunities to practice skills based on previously learned outcomes; (2) to prepare students for a new topic; (3) to elaborate on introduced material; and (4) to help students cover the objectives of a course; (5) Homework is essential in helping to develop independent work and time management skills for students entering post-secondary education.

Homework during school holidays and weekends

- Homework shall not be assigned such that it must be completed during school holidays. However, long term due dates may occur directly following such holidays.
- Homework assigned over regular weekends is to be no more than what might be normally assigned on any given school night.

For your child to be successful with homework, (s) he needs:

- A place to do homework – if possible, your child should do his/her homework in the same place (an uncluttered, quiet space to study with no distractions).
- A schedule for completing homework – set a homework schedule that fits in with each week's particular activities and starts early enough in the evening before students get tired (not too close to bedtime). Based on the latest educational research, we recommend the following time limits as a guideline for nightly homework. Note that these are recommended limits when students are completely on task and focused on their work (not on the phone, not texting, etc.). **It must also be understood that these are average**

guidelines only and that they do not allow for individual differences among students:

- K – 3: 20 minutes
 - 4 – 6: 40 minutes
 - 7 – 9: 1 hour
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- In Senior High, it is essential to recognize that the time commitment will be determined by the course or program selection of each individual student. Some courses may have more of an in-class focus for their learning while others require more out of class work.
 - 10 – 12: 2 hours
 - Encouragement, motivation and prompting – Your child needs to practice independently and to apply what (s) he has learned in class. It is not a good idea to sit with your child and do homework with him/her. You should monitor your child's homework by checking his/her progress periodically. If your child consistently cannot complete homework assignments alone, please contact his/her teacher.
 - Understanding of Knowledge – when your child is practicing a skill, ask which step (s) he finds difficult and easy and how (s) he plans to improve speed and accuracy with the skill. If your child is working on a project, ask what knowledge (s) he is using to complete the work. If your child consistently cannot answer these questions, please contact his/her teacher.
 - Reasonable time expectations – if your child cannot consistently complete his/her homework in the time limits given above, please contact his/her teacher.
 - A bedtime – when it is time to go to bed, please stop your child, even if (s) he has not finished the homework. If possible, have your child start homework so that it is done long before bedtime.

- Feedback/Discussion –The next day or during the next class, teachers will address each homework assignment for content and timeliness and will give students feedback for future learning. This may be done through individual or class discussion etc.
- When students are absent – It is the students’ and parents’ responsibility to find out what homework and class work is missed when students are absent from school. They should contact their teacher to ensure that they know what homework was assigned in their absence. It is the teacher’s responsibility to provide to the student any information (notes, etc.) that was missed during the student’s absence. Students are also expected to refer to the homework site for missed work.

Study Skills Brochure

- EGLS Study Skills: How to Study for Exams and Improve Your Grades