

Instruction

6154

Homework

The Weston Board of Education recognizes the value of homework and considers it an integral part of the educational process.

Homework may be assigned to:

- Strengthen and expand classroom learning;
- Reinforce content and allow the opportunity to practice essential skills;
- Develop good work habits and routines; and,
- Develop organizational, executive functioning and time management skills.

The administration shall issue guidelines outlining the responsibility of teachers, parents and students with respect to homework. Guidelines should be aligned with current research and best practices in education. Further, the guidelines should be developmentally appropriate and align with the district's commitment to promoting healthy learning environments.

Homework**Elementary and Intermediate Schools**

The primary focus of homework at the K-5 level is to promote foundational skills in reading and math. Through independent or assigned reading, students will build their decoding, fluency and comprehension skills by establishing a regular routine of reading at home. In addition to their reading, students in grades 2-5 are assigned math homework to reinforce math facts and skills they have learned in class. Occasionally, students are assigned other meaningful homework activities.

Homework is assigned Monday through Thursday at the K-5 level. No homework is assigned over holidays, weekends and school vacations that will be due the day school resumes.

Grade	Time for Reading	Average Daily Time for HW	Total Time
Kindergarten	20 minutes (may be read to)	Optional brief activity or game	20 minutes
Grade 1	20 minutes (may be read to)	Periodic brief activity or game	20 minutes
Grade 2	20 minutes	Weekly math maintenance activity	25 minute
Grade 3	20 minutes	Up to 10 minutes	30 minutes
Grade 4	20 minutes	Up to 20 minutes	40 minutes*
Grade 5	20 minutes	Up to 30 minutes	50 minutes*

*Students in grades 4 and 5 playing an instrument will need to set time aside to practice playing their instrument.

Students will:

- Build greater independence in completing homework as they progress through grades K-5.
- Establish a reading life through a regular routine of reading at home.

Teachers will:

- Assign purposeful and meaningful homework.
- Explain the purpose of homework to their students.
- Adhere to the guidelines set forth above for the total amount of time allotted for homework, understanding that some students take longer than others to complete assignments.

Parents will:

- Establish a time and place for completing homework.
- Encourage students to give their best effort on homework.
- Monitor homework completion.
- Contact the teacher if there are concerns about homework or the time it takes for the child to complete assignments.

Middle School

At the middle school, there is a continued commitment to reading daily through independent or assigned reading. In addition, middle school students are assigned meaningful homework in their classes to extend their learning. The middle school teaming model establishes time for teachers to meet to coordinate homework assignments, projects, tests, and quizzes in order to stay within the total daily time allotment guidelines listed below.

For middle school students, no homework is assigned over holidays and school vacations that will be due the day school resumes.

Grade	Time for Reading	Average Daily Time for HW	Total
Grade 6	20 minutes	Up to 40 minutes	60 minutes*
Grade 7	20 minutes	Up to 50 minutes	70 minutes*
Grade 8	20 minutes	Up to 60 minutes	80 minutes*

*Students in grades 6 through 8 playing an instrument will need to set time aside to practice playing their instrument.

Student will:

- Keep track of their assignments in a systematic way.
- Manage their time effectively to complete short-term and long-term assignments.
- Advocate for their individual needs and ask for help when necessary.
- Complete homework after absences within a reasonable and agreed upon amount of time with the classroom teacher.

Teacher will:

- Assign purposeful and meaningful homework with clear due dates.
- Explain the purpose of homework to their students.
- Clarify the type of feedback and when/how feedback will be communicated to the student.
- Provide students with strategies and guidance for how to study for quizzes and tests.
- Post assignments online with adequate notice for completion.
- Coordinate the timing of assessments (e.g. quizzes, tests) with other teachers on the team and post on the team calendar.
- Adhere to the guidelines set forth above for the total amount of time allotted for homework understanding that some students take longer than others to complete assignments.

Parent will:

- Establish a time and place for completing homework.
- Monitor homework completion
- Encourage students to give their best effort on homework.
- Support students with managing make up work after absences.
- Encourage students to contact their teacher if they are having difficulty.
- Contact the teacher if there are concerns about homework or the time it takes for the child to complete assignments.

High School

High school students should expect to spend an average of two hours doing homework nightly. A student's course of study will determine the amount of time the student spends on homework each day. Students should consider that taking a course of study consisting of multiple advanced level courses could increase their homework beyond two hours.

For high school students, no homework is assigned over holidays and school vacations that will be due the day school resumes.

Student will:

- Keep track of their assignments in a systematic way.
- Manage their time effectively to complete short-term and long-term assignments.
- Advocate for their individual needs and ask for help when necessary.
- Complete homework after absences within a reasonable and agreed upon amount of time with the classroom teacher.

Teacher will:

- Assign purposeful and meaningful homework with clear due dates.
- Explain the purpose of homework to their students.
- Clarify the type of feedback and when/how feedback will be communicated to the student.
- Provide students with strategies and guidance for how to study for quizzes and tests.
- Post assignments online with adequate time for completion.
- Adhere to the guidelines set forth above for the total amount of time allotted for homework understanding that some students take longer than others to complete assignments.

Parent will:

- Provide a supportive environment for completing homework.
- Encourage students to give their best effort on homework.
- Support students with managing make up work after absences.
- Encourage students to contact their teacher if they are having difficulty.
- Contact the teacher if there are concerns about homework or the time it takes for the child to complete assignments.

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