

Homework - Rationale

Homework is an integral part of the learning process in the Westford Public Schools. It is a valuable contributor toward the development of good study habits, individual responsibility, and time management skills, all of which are necessary for success in school, the workplace and in students' daily lives. Discretion should be used by teachers in assigning of homework prior to weekends, vacations, and holidays. Homework should not be assigned so that the due dates will conflict with the celebration of religious holidays.

Considerations for Homework

Homework traditionally provides for some very basic purposes:

1. To supplement and reinforce skills and work done in class.
2. To provide opportunities to use skills and knowledge learned at school in creative ways outside of school.
3. To promote independent study and research skills.
4. To help develop individual responsibility by teaching students how to manage time and organize materials

Beyond these provisions, the Westford Public Schools believe that truly effective homework includes the following considerations:

1. It should be meaningful for students by having real world connections when appropriate.
2. It should contain problem-solving activities and assignments to challenge the critical thinking abilities of students.
3. It should include project oriented, long-term assignments to enable students to integrate their learning.
4. It should be differentiated in accordance with needs, skill deficits, strengths and interests of students.
5. It should provide challenge and extensions to further expand opportunities for learning.

Homework – Student Responsibilities

At grades K-2 homework is a cooperative effort between parent and child.

For grades 3-12:

1. Homework is the student's responsibility.
2. Students are encouraged to use a homework assignment book or some organized method to record assignments.
3. Students should complete homework assignments on time and according to teacher guidelines.
4. Students are responsible for obtaining from their teachers any missed assignments.

Homework – Parent/Legal Guardian Responsibilities

1. Homework is a responsibility that rightfully belongs to the child.
2. Direct participation of parents/legal guardians should be minimal; the younger the student, the more likely the need for involvement of parents/legal guardians.

3. Parents/legal guardians should provide a place to study, free from distractions, and appropriate materials, such as pencils, pens, erasers, ruler, etc.
4. Parents/legal guardians should monitor the time spent on homework and confer with the teacher if the amount of time appears to be consistently excessive or too little.
5. Parents/legal guardians should notify the teacher if an unforeseen occurrence prevents the student from completing the assignment.
6. Parents/legal guardians should make every attempt to schedule vacation time during those blocks provided within the school calendar. Missing classroom instruction cannot be replaced with homework assignments. Homework is designed to reinforce classroom instruction.

Homework – Teacher Responsibilities

1. Assignments will be at the students’ level of understanding.
2. Assignments will be purposeful and related to the curriculum.
3. Assignments will not be given until expectations have been explained.
4. Consideration will be given to balance long-term assignments as well as tests.
5. The teacher will make homework an integral part of the assessment process. Grade level teams will strive not to exceed the time-related guidelines.
6. Teachers will communicate with parents/legal guardians about homework expectations as well as any problems that arise.
7. The teacher should provide timely feedback on home assignments.

Guidelines for Time and Frequency

The following guidelines provide an approximate amount of time students should spend completing homework. Homework time will vary from student to student and day to day. Teachers generally assign homework four times per week. The total daily time for core homework at each grade level is as follows:

<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Time</u>
Kindergarten	At teacher discretion
One	Approximately 15 minutes
Two	Approximately 20 minutes
Three	Approximately 25 minutes
Four	Approximately 30 minutes
Five	Approximately 45 minutes
Six	Approximately 60 minutes
Seven	Approximately 1 – 1_ hours
Eight	Approximately 1_ – 2 hours
Nine –Twelve	2 – 4 hours per course, per week, Mon.-Fri.

Honors and Advanced Placement courses may require additional homework time.

Regulations Adopted:
Regulations Reviewed:
Regulations Revised:

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