

**Homework - Purpose for All**

Homework consists of assignments or activities intended to:

- 1) Preview/Preparation for an upcoming class
- 2) Practice/Refinement/Reinforcement of skills and concepts learned in class
- 3) Integration of newly learned concepts and skills with what students already know

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

- It should be meaningful for students by having real world connections when applicable.
- It should contain problem-solving activities and assignments that challenge students to think critically.
- It may include project-oriented, long-term assignments to enable students to integrate their learning.
- It should be differentiated in accordance with needs, skill deficits, and strengths of students when necessary.
- It should incorporate student choice when appropriate.
- It should provide challenge and extensions to further expand opportunities for learning.

**Homework - Expectations for All**

We acknowledge that students work at different paces; therefore, the homework times listed in these regulations are intended to be used as a guide. These times are to identify a maximum number of minutes per night and do not reflect the amount of homework a teacher is “supposed to” assign to students. Homework assignments are assigned at the discretion of the teacher as long as it meets at least one purpose listed above and does not exceed the times listed below. As a result, teachers are welcome to assign less than the maximum amounts. Additionally, if a teacher sees that a student has mastery of a certain concept and, as a result, the student will not benefit from additional practice, it is appropriate to modify the quantity or expectations to avoid “busy work” assignments.

**Homework - Time Expectations and Stakeholder Responsibilities**

**ELEMENTARY:**

The maximum times below refer to assigned nightly homework and do not include reading for pleasure or practice. In addition to the assigned nightly homework, students are encouraged to read for approximately 20 (less at the younger grades) minutes each night for pleasure or practice. Home expectations for long-term projects that are assigned will be included in the nightly maximum.

| <b>Grade<br/>Time Expectations</b>                   | <b>Teacher Responsibilities</b>  | <b>Student Responsibilities</b>  | <b>Parent Responsibilities</b>   |
|--|--|--|--|
| <i>KINDERGARTEN</i>                                  | There will be no regularly assigned nightly HW. Teachers will provide students/families with suggestions on activities that will reinforce concepts taught in the classroom. | Students are encouraged to practice reading or listen to someone read to them each night with an adult or older child. | Parents are encouraged to incorporate the school-suggested activities with their child, when appropriate.<br><br>Parents are encouraged to read with their child on a nightly basis. |
| <i>GRADE 1</i><br><br>From 0 to 10 minutes per night | HW will be assigned with a greater emphasis on literacy and math.<br><br>No HW will be assigned over weekends or school vacations/holiday breaks.                            | HW is a cooperative effort between the parent and child.   | HW is a cooperative effort between the parent and child.<br><br>Parents are encouraged to designate an appropriate HW area with limited distractions for their child.                |
| <i>GRADE 2</i><br><br>From 0 to 15 minutes per night |  |  | If your child’s HW exceeds maximum minutes on a consistent basis, please communicate with the classroom teacher so adjustments can be made.  |

|   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <p><i>GRADE 3</i></p> <p>From 0 to 20 minutes per night</p> | <p>HW will be assigned with a greater emphasis on literacy and math.</p> <p>No HW will be assigned over weekends or school vacations/holiday breaks.</p>  | <p>HW is primarily the responsibility of the student.</p> <p>Students should complete HW on time and according to teacher guidelines.</p> <p>Students are responsible for obtaining from their teachers any missed assignments.</p> | <p>Parents are encouraged to designate an appropriate HW area with limited distractions for their child.</p> <p>Parents should ensure that the HW submitted to the teacher is a true reflection of the child's ability/understanding.</p> <p>Parents should assist child to ensure student's HW has been completed and is ready to be returned to school.</p> <p>If your child's HW exceeds maximum minutes on a consistent basis, please communicate with the classroom teacher so adjustments can be made.</p> |
| <p><i>GRADE 4</i></p> <p>From 0 to 30 minutes per night</p> | <p>In addition to focusing on literacy and math, there may be HW in other subject areas as well.</p> <p>In addition, long-term projects will be assigned. Homework expectations for long-term projects are included in the nightly maximum as well.</p> | <p>HW is primarily the responsibility of the student.</p> <p>Students should complete HW on time and according to teacher guidelines.</p> <p>Students are responsible for obtaining from their teachers any missed assignments.</p> | <p>Parents are encouraged to assist child in making sure there is an appropriate HW area in the home.</p> <p>Parents should ensure that the HW submitted to the teacher is a true reflection of the <i>child's</i> ability and understanding.</p> <p>Parents should assist child to ensure student's HW has been completed and is ready to be returned to school.</p>  |
| <p><i>GRADE 5</i></p> <p>From 0 to 40 minutes per night</p> | <p>No HW will be assigned over weekends or school vacations/holiday breaks.</p>   |   | <p>If your child's HW exceeds maximum minutes on a consistent basis, please communicate with the classroom teacher so adjustments can be made.</p>   |

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

The maximum times below refer to assigned nightly homework and do not include reading for pleasure or practice with a self-selected text, which is encouraged. Home expectations for long-term projects that are assigned will be included in the nightly maximum.

| <b>Grade Time Expectations</b>                                 | <b>Teacher Responsibilities</b>   | <b>Student Responsibilities</b>   | <b>Parent Responsibilities</b>   |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p><i>GRADE 6</i></p> <p>From 0 to 60 minutes per night</p>    | <p>Teacher teams should coordinate HW expectations to ensure students do not exceed the maximum time.</p>   |   |  |
| <p><i>GRADES 7-8</i></p> <p>From 0 to 90 minutes per night</p> | <p>Homework expectations for long-term projects are included in the nightly maximum as well.</p> <p>Feedback that is given to students regarding homework assignments should be delivered in a timely manner.</p> <p>To minimize the amount of homework being done on weekends, teachers will not assign homework on a Friday that is due on Monday of the subsequent week. However, students may work on long term assignments over the weekend.</p> | <p>HW is primarily the responsibility of the student.</p> <p>Students should complete HW on time and according to teacher guidelines.</p> <p>If students struggle with HW (content and/or exceeding maximum time) on a consistent basis, the students should speak with the teacher for assistance.</p> <p>Students are responsible for obtaining from their teachers any missed assignments.</p> | <p>Parents are encouraged to assist their child in identifying an appropriate HW area, with limited distractions.</p> <p>Homework is a responsibility that rightfully belongs to the child. Direct participation of parents should be minimal.</p> <p>Parents should help students budget their time around after-school-activities and with the pacing of long-term projects.</p> <p>Parents should encourage the child to speak with the teacher for assistance if the maximum number of homework minutes is exceeded on a consistent basis.</p> |

|  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
|  | No HW will be assigned over vacations/holiday breaks. |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|

**HIGH SCHOOL:**

The maximum times below refer to assigned nightly homework and do not include reading for pleasure or practice with a self-selected text, which is encouraged. Home expectations for long-term projects that are assigned will be included in the nightly maximum.

| <b>Grade Time Expectations</b>  | <b>Teacher Responsibilities</b>   | <b>Student Responsibilities</b>  | <b>Parent Responsibilities</b>  |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p><i>GRADES 9-12</i></p> <p>From 0 to 30 minutes per course per night</p> <p><b>and</b></p> <p>From 0 to 2.5 hours per course per week</p> | <p>Homework expectations for long-term projects are included in the nightly maximum as well.</p> <p>Feedback that is given to students regarding homework assignments should be delivered in a timely manner.</p> <p>No homework will be assigned over school vacations/holiday breaks and no additional homework should be added during a “snow day” (excluding Distance Learning activities).</p> | <p>HW is primarily the responsibility of the student.</p> <p>Students should manage their time to accommodate studying, long-term and short-term assignments, and extra-curricular activities.</p> <p>Students should complete HW on time and according to teacher guidelines.</p> <p>If students struggle with HW (content and/or exceeding maximum time) on a consistent basis, the students should speak with the teacher for assistance.</p> <p>Students are responsible for obtaining from their teachers any missed assignments.</p> | <p>Parents are encouraged to assist their child in identifying an appropriate HW area, with limited distractions.</p> |
| <p><i>AP Courses &amp; Dual Enrollment</i></p> <p>4-5 hours per course per week</p>   | <p>Homework expectations for long-term projects are <i>not</i> included in the nightly maximum.</p> <p>Feedback that is given to students regarding homework assignments should be delivered in a timely manner.</p>  | <p>Students should manage their time to accommodate studying, long-term and short-term assignments, and extra-curricular activities.</p> <p>Students should complete HW on time and according to teacher guidelines.</p> <p>Students are responsible for obtaining from their teachers any missed assignments.</p>   |   |