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## Westford Public Schools

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

Over the past several years Westford Public Schools, along with many districts throughout the nation, began revisiting the topic of homework and exploring the research associated with the impact of homework. In the 2016-2017 school year, the district established a homework committee, which consisted of twenty-seven people including Westford administrators, teachers, parents and students. We reviewed the published research pertaining to homework along with gathering information from students, parents and teachers. After collecting and synthesizing the information, the homework committee developed recommendations for Superintendent Olsen and the School Committee to consider.

After rich discussion and a thoughtful process last school year, the Westford School Committee updated its homework [policy](#) and Superintendent Olsen adjusted the homework [regulations](#). Both revised documents are intended to ensure that our homework practices are most valuable for students. The goal of the new policy and regulations is to place a strong emphasis on the quality of homework being assigned, while being cognizant of the quantity. We want to ensure that all homework assigned to students directly supports the targeted learning objectives and is not given simply for routine purposes. Homework activities will be assigned when necessary for students to preview/prepare for an upcoming class, practice/refine concepts learned, or to integrate newly learned skills with what students already know.

While the homework conversations and analysis have taken place over the past three years, this 2018-2019 school year is the first year of implementation of these revised homework procedures. If your child comes home without homework assigned, please do not be alarmed or concerned. Each day teachers will determine if homework is necessary in order for students to meet the learning objectives and, if not, homework will not be assigned on that particular day.

We have had positive reactions from staff and students alike and look forward to gathering more formal feedback in the near future. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about these shifts to our homework practices.

Thank you and Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kerry Clery, Ed.D.".

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