

HOMWORK

Policy

The Trumbull Board of Education believes that parents, guardians and teachers must work together to motivate and support our students as they strive both in school and at home to develop responsibility and study habits that will enable them to become life-long learners. The Board of Education encourages the faculty to give meaningful homework to students as an effective learning experience.

The general purposes of homework are: to reinforce classroom instruction; to develop specific skills through practice; to prepare for future lessons; to foster the habits of consistent independent study and time management; and to provide an opportunity for student learning outside the classroom.

No homework shall be assigned on major religious holidays that are also school holidays, i.e. Good Friday, eve and day of Yom Kippur, and the eve and first full day of Rosh Hashanah. When such a major holiday falls on a weekend day, no homework will be assigned for that weekend. Students observing religious holidays that are not school holidays shall not be assigned homework on that day if a parent/guardian requests an exemption in a signed letter to the student's teacher. It is expected that the assignment is to be made up within a reasonable time after the holiday.

Adopted: 3/20/84
Revised: 6/04/91, 1/07/97
1/15/13

Regulations

1. Student

The responsibilities of the student are:

- To contact the teacher when absent so that all work and make up assignments can be successfully completed (for students in grades 4 through 12)
- To understand the purpose of each assignment, assignment directions, and means of assessment
- To understand the time allotment so that time can be budgeted responsibly
- To understand that all elements of homework assignments impact the grading process

2. Teacher

The responsibilities of the teacher are:

- To explain the purpose of each assignment with clear directions
- To explain the method of assessment and the impact on the student's grade
- To suggest a reasonable time allotment on homework assignments, providing for reasonable make-up assignments when appropriate, and explaining that deadlines and penalties are adhered to with grading consequences
- To return appropriately evaluated homework in a timely manner to further the learning experience
- To explain that group projects at the elementary and middle level require individual preparation at home so that the collaborative group work can be accomplished during the school day
- To explain that group projects at the high school level may require individual preparation at home and in school so that collaborative work can be accomplished during the school day and after school hours
- To use monitoring tools for group projects to track equal participation of all members of the group. Individual reflections on the group process that account for a percentage of the grade should also be used when applicable
- To assign long term projects in a timely manner and ensure that school vacation time is not included in the allotted timeframe for a project. (e.g. a three week project may take four weeks if the time frame includes a full vacation week)

Regulations cont'd.

3. Parent/Guardian

The responsibilities of the parent/guardian are:

- To contact the teacher in grades K through 3 when student is absent so that all work and make up assignments can be successfully completed
- To remind the student in grades 4 through 12 to contact the teacher when absent so that all work and make up assignments can be successfully completed
- To support the student with a time and place to focus on homework
- To understand that homework assignments are components of the grading process
- To check with the student for completion of assignments
- To contact the teacher, guidance counselor or administrator in the event of questions or concerns
- To notify the teacher in writing to request exemption from homework assigned during a regular school session due to a religious holiday

4. Administrator

The responsibilities of the administrator are:

- To communicate the homework policy to students, faculty, and parents/guardians
- To monitor and support the faculty in applying the policy appropriately and consistently

Guidelines by Grade Level

In establishing homework guidelines, it is important to consider the individual differences of students and availability of resources. The following time allotments are a general guide and do not include time recommended for “standing expectations” such as but not limited to silent reading, practicing math facts, reviewing high frequency words, and practicing music skills.

Grades K - 5

Grades K-1 – Adjusted to the maturity and readiness of the child

Grade 2 – average 15 - 20 min per night

Grade 3 – average 25 - 30 min per night

Grade 4 – average 35 - 45 min per night

Grade 5 – average 45 - 55 min per night

No homework should be assigned at the elementary level on weekends and school vacations other than, but not limited to, reinforcement work, and completion of weekly classroom work.

Guidelines by Grade Level cont'd.

Grades 6 - 8

Grade 6 – average 60-70 min per night

Grade 7 – average 75-90 min per night

Grade 8 – average 90-120 min per night

Additional homework time may be needed depending on the rigor of courses in a student's program of studies.

Grades 9 – 12

2 – 3 hours per night

Additional homework time may be needed depending on the rigor and number of courses in a student's program of studies.

References

- Trumbull Board of Education Policies:
Curriculum Development, Policy Code: 6141
Parent/Guardian Complaint Policy, Policy Code: 1312
Protected Prayer, Policy Code 6115.1