

Instruction

Homework

Homework assignments shall be planned, assigned and evaluated according to the following principles:

1. The purpose of the homework and relation to what has been learned in the classroom must be clearly understood by the student.
2. Homework should emanate from classroom activities, projects, and skills.
3. A student's age, need for play time, and out-of-school responsibilities must be considered when deciding upon an assignment. Students bear the responsibility for managing their time so that homework can be completed and submitted on time.
4. Assignments should make use of a variety of skills.
5. Every homework assignment must be corrected or evaluated in keeping with the purpose of the assignment. Corrections/evaluations shall be shared with the student in a timely fashion.

Average minutes of homework shall not exceed:

- K-2: 20 minutes of homework per night
- 3: 30 minutes of homework per night
- 4: 40 minutes of homework per night
- 5: 50 minutes of homework per night
- 6-8: 20 minutes of homework per night per class
- 9-12: 30 minutes of homework per night per class
- 45 minutes per honors class per class
- 1 hour per Advanced Placement class
- Independent study courses will vary

Large projects requiring additional time may also be assigned. All students are encouraged to engage in independent reading nightly.

Weighting Grades

Departments at the secondary level (grades 6-12) will clearly define the homework policy and assign a consistent percentage of weight, to be established per department/grade and per like course at Bacon Academy, not to exceed 20% of the quarter grade.

Homework Non-Completion

Because completion of homework impacts a student's ability to complete class work the following day, parents will be notified of homework non-completion.

In grades 3-5, students who do not complete homework will be given homework alerts. After three alerts in one month or five in one trimester, parents will be contacted by the appropriate teacher to discuss ways to improve student homework completion.

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For secondary students, failure to complete homework will be reflected in the quarter grade, and may also result in other consequences.

Make Up Work

Assignments missed during an absence shall be completed in accordance with the Attendance/Excuses/Dismissal Policy #5113.

Requests for homework should be made 24 hours in advance.

Guidelines for teachers

Teachers will:

1. Explain the purpose of any given assignment.
2. Give clear directions on the method and means of accomplishing the assignment.
3. Ensure the availability of all necessary resources to carry out the assignment.
4. Post assignments in the classroom and on the student database in a timely manner, for grade 3 and beyond.
5. Acknowledge receipt of homework and provide students with specific and timely feedback.
6. Explain the method of evaluation of homework and its potential impact on the student's grade.
7. Suggest a reasonable time allotment on a daily assignment.
8. Give assignments as far in advance as is practical.
9. Provide students with opportunities for choice in extended learning projects.
10. Differentiate homework as needed.
11. Communicate with parents and students who consistently fail to complete homework assignments or whose grade is being adversely affected by poor homework performance.

Guidelines for students

Students will:

1. Understand the purpose and means of evaluation of an assignment, and ask for clarification when needed.
2. Record directions, time allotment, and requirements of assignments, beginning in grade 3.
3. Assume responsibility for completion of assignments.
4. Self-monitor grades and progress on the student database beginning in grade 6.
5. Consult with the teacher about work to be completed after an absence.
6. Assume responsibility for completing make up work.

All students are encouraged to engage in independent reading nightly.

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Guidelines for parents

Parents/guardians will:

1. Understand and support the district policy regarding homework located in the Student Handbook and on the website www.colchesterct.org.
2. Ensure assignments are obtained for a student's extended absence.
3. Encourage students to complete homework to the best of the child's ability.
4. Contact the teacher in the event of questions or concerns regarding assignments.

Parents are encouraged to enroll on the student database for notification of grades and assignments.

Parents of children in grades K-2 are encouraged to read to or with their child nightly.

Guidelines for administrators

Administrators will:

1. Publish the homework policy.
2. Ensure teachers and/or academic departments establish homework guidelines for their classes and/or subject areas.
3. Review homework regulations with staff annually.
4. Ensure teachers follow the homework policy and regulations.
5. Encourage parents to take an interest in their child's homework through meetings and newsletters.