

The New Haven Middle School Homework Policy

Purpose:

The New Haven Middle School Homework program will serve as an important link between home and school, keeping parents/guardians informed by reinforcing and extending school learning, experiences, and interests. Assignments have the following purposes:

- To prepare for, reinforce, and extend concepts introduced in class
- To activate prior knowledge and assess student understanding
- To establish study habits and self-reliance
- To allow parents/guardians and teachers to monitor student progress

Definition:

Homework is defined as at-home assignments, studying, and/or projects performed by the student. Homework is a way to help your child develop work and study habits that will assist him/her throughout the years spent in school. Homework should encourage family involvement as well.

Time:

The New Haven Middle School recognizes the United States Department of Education standard homework guidelines and recommendations from other experts in education. (Please refer to <http://www.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/homework/part4.html> or <http://www.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/homework/part5.html> for, further information.) Students' total daily homework should not exceed the guideline of 60 - 90 minutes, assuming students have completed daily in-class assignments and make-up work. This includes all classes with the exception of Band, Chorus, and Drama. These will require additional or extended time.

Missing Work Policy:

Students are expected to turn in homework on time. Students who do not turn in assignments will receive a consequence based upon individual teacher discretion or grade level policy. These consequences shall include:

- Homework Lunch
- Partial credit
- Missed reward activity
- Communications with parents

Student Absence:

Students who miss homework because of an absence will receive the opportunity to make up missed work. Upon returning to school following an absence, it is a student's responsibility to contact the teacher or teachers to request make-up work. The contact should be made on the day the student returns to school unless the teacher allows a longer time. Students are given one school calendar day for each day absent plus one day to turn in the work. Make-up work submitted late will be subject to aforementioned consequences.

Extenuating Circumstances:

A student who has extenuating circumstance may turn homework on the next day if the student brings in a parent/guardian note requesting exemption. Habitual parent notes will not be accepted.

Responsibilities:

As with all schoolwork, but especially with homework, the interaction among the teacher-student-parent/guardian is essential. The final responsibility for homework rests with the student.

The student should

- Know the school's homework and agenda use policies.
- Record all assignments in their agenda.
- Be aware of the importance of homework.
- Ensure homework is completed to the best of his/her ability.
- Complete homework in the given time frame.
- Manage time on projects and studying in order to maintain the guideline of 60 - 90 total minutes of homework.
- Ask for assistance from teachers, classmates (study buddies), and parents/guardians as needed.

The teacher/staff should

- Assign relevant, challenging, and meaningful homework.
- Give clear instructions and ensure that students understand expectations including how homework will be assessed.
- Offer assistance when needed.
- Provide verbal or written feedback promptly to students.
- Maintain homework records and communicate with parents/guardians if homework issues begin to negatively impact the grade.
- Meet regularly with interdisciplinary teachers to ensure that the amount of homework assigned is reasonable, taking into account competing home obligations, extracurricular activities, and homework assigned by other teachers.

The parent/guardian should

- Understand that 60 - 90 total minutes of homework is only a guideline and that there may be occasions when homework takes additional time. Some students routinely require more time.
- Take an active interest in homework.
- Set a regular, uninterrupted study/homework time each day in a dedicated place.
- Communicate regularly with teachers to monitor and encourage student progress.
- Update phone numbers and email addresses as needed.
- Stay well informed via Infinite Campus online grading system. Visit the district web site for more information on how to access your students' grades.

Homework Lunch Procedures

Homework lunch is a supervised silent lunch period where a student may complete unfinished homework. Any student completing missing assignments may return to the cafeteria to socialize with peers.

- Thursday: Teachers report all missing assignments to office
- Friday: Student receives notification of homework lunch and a list of missing assignment(s).
- Monday: student reports to homework lunch, unless student satisfactorily completes missing assignment(s).
- Student will report to homework lunch until completion of assignment.
- Students who consistently fail to turn homework in on time may be assigned to an after school homework make up session or other homework intervention in lieu of lunchtime homework.

I _____ have read and understand The New Haven Middle School Homework Policy. I understand that if my child fails to complete assignments they will be assigned to homework lunch.

X: _____
Printed Name of Parent/Guardian

X: _____
Signature of Parent/Guardian

I _____ have read and understand The New Haven Middle School Homework Policy. I understand that if I fail to complete assignments I will be assigned to homework lunch.

X: _____
Printed Name of Student

X: _____
Signature of Student