

Levittown School District
Homework Guidelines for Middle and High School
Philosophy

Homework in the Levittown School District is an essential part of our educational program. Homework assignments are intended to reinforce what has been taught and serve as a tool for teachers to assess student understanding of classroom instruction. Homework can motivate students to develop good work habits and time management skills, while increasing the opportunity for individual initiative and responsibility. Homework can also stimulate creativity, critical thinking, independent judgment and awareness that learning also takes place outside of the classroom. Due to the individual differences and needs of students, the district does not require or expect all students to have the same homework experience throughout their academic career. The guidelines below indicate how students, parents, teachers and administrators all have a responsibility for the success of homework.

Definition

Homework is defined as school related assignments given to students to be completed outside of the classroom.

Purpose

The purpose of homework is to:

- Provide needed practice to reinforce and strengthen skills introduced in the classroom.
- Promote growth in responsibility, self-discipline, and organizational and time-management skills.
- Enrich and/or extend learning experiences.
- Develop and improve study skills.
- Provide feedback to educators about student progress to guide classroom instruction.
- Improve the home-school connection.

Guidelines for Students

Completing homework helps students develop emotional and behavioral skills that are needed in the adult world. Students are less stressed when they attend school having come prepared, having completed required assignments.

- Always do your best work and complete assignments on time.
- Be aware of and record all homework assignments. Be sure to understand assignments clearly before leaving class and ask questions if necessary.

- Keep in mind that written work is not the only form of homework. Studying and reading are important types of homework.
- Ensure that you have access to the assignments (for example: online, through the agenda book, homework buddy, etc.).
- If you are having difficulty completing assignments, advocate for yourself by speaking with your parent(s) and teacher(s).
- Bring home the proper materials to complete the assignments.
- Budget time properly for assignments.
- Understand how homework will affect your class grade. Track your progress through the school's student portal.

Guidelines for Parents & Guardians

The Levittown School District believes that parents/guardians are partners in the education of our youth. Parental involvement in students' homework is essential to making homework an integral part of the education program. Parents/guardians are expected to encourage and monitor assignments and provide conditions that are conducive to their successful completion.

Parents/guardians are essential in establishing positive attitudes, good study habits, and supporting students' success with homework. Parents/guardians are encouraged to:

- Be familiar with teachers' homework policies.
- Ensure that your child understands the importance of homework.
- Be a positive motivator and show interest in their schoolwork.
- Provide a time and place to do homework assignments that best accommodates your child's learning style with limited distractions (ex: cell phone).
- If frustration sets in, suggest a short break. If your child asks for help, provide guidance, not answers.
- If your child is having difficulty completing assignments, encourage your child to speak with the teacher.
- Check in with your child to see that work is complete.
- Monitor your child's progress through the Powerschool Parent Portal.
- Contact the teacher with questions or concerns about individual assignments. If homework problems persist, contact building support staff (guidance counselor, etc.).

Guidelines for Teachers

Homework assignments should be meaningful activities or assignments that students can complete independently and are carefully constructed as to be completed within a reasonable time allotment, with minimal adult help. The goal of homework is to provide practice for skills learned, or preparation for the next lesson.

- All homework assignments should be clearly explained and connected to grade level or subject matter curriculum.
- Ensure that students can access assignments through the district website, homework sheets or agenda books.
- When appropriate, assignments should be discussed, checked, and corrected. Research indicates that one of the most influential elements in a child's education is timely feedback.
- Specific policies/practices of teachers must be clearly communicated to students and parents.
- Teachers have the responsibility to communicate with parents of students who are falling behind in completing homework assignments in a timely manner.
- Students with excused absences from school should be given an appropriate amount of time to hand in assigned work without penalty once they return to school.
- Students will be given additional time without penalty to complete assignments that fall on religious holidays.
- The district recognizes that learning occurs in many environments and modalities. To this end, teachers are encouraged to limit homework over weekends and vacations to ensure that it does not unreasonably encroach on family & leisure time. Students may elect to use the weekends to review materials, study, make up work, complete projects, and enjoy recreational reading. In some instances (accelerated classes, Advanced Placement, college credit classes etc.) weekend/vacation assignments may be necessary in order to appropriately prepare students.

Guidelines for Administrators

The role of an effective administrator is to promote best practices in the area of homework.

- Discuss district homework guidelines with teacher teams.
- Ensure this guideline is disseminated using district approved methods (ex: website, agendas).
- Ensure implementation of homework guidelines.
- Assist teachers, when necessary, in implementing this homework policy.
- Work with teachers and parents to enhance homework completion, including sharing with parents available online resources.
- Work with faculty to develop methods to promote a balanced way to assign homework and tests as well as continuity from grade level to grade level.

Time Frame of Homework Assignments

The time it takes to complete homework assignments will vary with each child, please contact your child's teacher for assistance. If your child is having difficulty on a consistent basis completing assignments.

Sources:

Homework Guidelines from Other Districts:

Braintree School District:

[https://www.braintreeschools.org/uploaded/braintree_public_school/Policies/Homework Policy - BHS- Revised Adopted 1-2016.docx](https://www.braintreeschools.org/uploaded/braintree_public_school/Policies/Homework_Policy_-_BHS-_Revised_Adopted_1-2016.docx)

North Shore School District:

<http://www.northshoreschools.org/glenwoodlanding/homework.html>

North Merrick School District: <https://www.nmerrickschools.org/domain/324>

Lincoln Middle School: <http://www.lincoln.smmusd.org/homeworkpolicy.html>

Additional Resources:

Cooper, Harris M. *The Battle over Homework: Common Ground for Administrators, Teachers, and Parents*. Carrel Books, 2015.

Fairbanks, Ellen Kelly, et al. "Developing a Comprehensive Homework Policy." *Principal*, Jan. 2005, pp. 36-39.

Hattie, John. *Visible Learning: a Synthesis of over 800 Meta-Analyses Relating to Achievement*; Routledge, 2010.

"The Real Meaning of Homework." *Better Homes & Gardens*, 17 Feb. 2017, www.bhg.com/health-family/school/homework/the-real-meaning-of-homework/.

Vatterott, Cathy. *Rethinking Homework: Best Practices That Support Diverse Needs*. ASCD, 2018.