

Holbrook Public Schools

HOMEWORK POLICY*GRADES K-6*

The home study program of the Holbrook Public Schools is an important component of each student's education and provides a vital link between the home and school. Developmentally appropriate homework fosters initiative, independence, responsibility, and good study habits. Done conscientiously, it enhances both the quality and quantity of learning. Homework is the combined responsibility of the student, parent, and teacher.

Purpose

- homework relates to topics being studied in class
- homework helps to reinforce skills and extend learning
- homework increases parental awareness of school programs
- homework assists students in gaining mastery of content and skills
- homework helps students become more self-directed and independent learners
- homework fosters positive attitudes toward learning

Guidelines

- homework includes studying for tests, written assignments, reading, research, and projects
- homework may include daily and long-term assignments
- homework assignments may be adjusted to individual student's ability and learning needs
- homework is never busy work – it is meaningful and appropriate to the grade level and student
- homework requirements will be clearly indicated to the students
- homework is a regular, consistent, and integral part of every instructional program
- homework will never be given for disciplinary reasons

Time

Homework assignments are individualized as much as possible. The amount and type of homework shall be appropriate to the age, ability, and maturity of the student. Some students may accomplish more in the allotted time than other students. Reading is an ongoing assignment. **All children should read at least 15 minutes every night. Younger students should be read to every day.**

<u>Kindergarten & Grade 1</u>	meaningful, short assignments not to exceed 15 minutes
<u>Grade 2</u>	not to exceed 30 minutes
<u>Grade 3</u>	30 minutes per night
<u>Grade 4</u>	40 minutes per night
<u>Grade 5</u>	50 minutes per night
<u>Grade 6</u>	60 minutes per night

Responsibility of the Teachers

- to design homework to accomplish a specific purpose clearly related to the curriculum for the grade level
- to assign homework according to the District's guideline
- to ensure that the assignment is clear and fully explained
- to assist students in developing age appropriate study habits
- to communicate with parents and students when problems concerning homework arise
- to insist on high standards of work
- to assess homework consistently and provide feedback to students
- to post homework assignments so they can be clearly visible and available to students

Responsibility of the Students

- to record assignments clearly before leaving class
- to bring home the necessary materials
- to complete and return assignments on time
- to budget time properly for long-term assignments
- to always do their best
- to confer with parents and teachers if assignments are not clear or too difficult

Responsibility of the Parents

- to establish the importance of homework and to encourage your child to accept the responsibility for completing assignments
- to provide a quiet and distraction-free location in the home that is conducive to study
- to designate an appropriate period of time for home study that is consistent with the grade level guidelines
- to monitor the time utilized by your child to complete homework assignments
- to notify the teachers of problems and when an unforeseen occurrence prevents the child from completing an assignment
- to cooperate with the teachers to work out a plan to solve homework problems
- to insist on high standards of work on homework assignments
- to promote the habit of doing homework on a regular basis
- to encourage your child to read and write widely and often
- to provide the tools necessary for home study including pencils, pen, ruler, dictionary, etc.

Whenever students are absent, parents may request that homework be sent with a sibling, relative, or neighbor. Requests for homework assignments should be made in the morning.

GRADES 7-12

The Homework Policy reinforces the school's Mission, Academic Expectations, and Statement of Purpose, which include the goal of empowering our students with the skills, the experiences, and the opportunities to achieve success and to foster a love of learning.

Homework is an essential component of education. Skills improve with study, concentration, and repetition.

Reaching for excellence takes practice, drill, and a dedication to enhance one's understanding and knowledge.

Homework is assigned for a variety of reasons, among them:

- To reinforce the day's lesson.
- To provide quiet time for concentration and improve comprehension
- To reflect on ideas.
- To strengthen basic skills
- To practice writing and rewriting.
- To organize one's work
- To investigate sources and engage in research
- To improve study habits

In general, work should be assigned five days a week with the expectation that a student will study 20 minutes to one hour in each subject, depending on the grade and ability of the student.

A Junior High student should have 20 minutes to 1/2 hour per subject and a Senior High student should have 1/2 hour to one hour in each subject.

The student should copy homework assignments into a notebook. The student is responsible for completion of assignments.

SOURCE: JFK, South, and JSHS Student Handbooks

Adopted: October 17, 2007