

Homework: Don't Leave Home Without It!

What?

Homework is defined as schoolwork completed outside of the classroom.

Why?

Homework is given by teachers for three primary reasons:

1. Prepare students for new learning;
2. Check for students' understanding;
3. Provide practice for a new skill or process.

When?

One of the most important gifts parents of adolescents can give their children is the expectation of a regular homework time. At the secondary level, this usually amounts to between **1 ½ and 2 hours each and every school night**.

Where?

Note that this compound word begins with “home!” If your son or daughter adamantly insists that homework was finished in school, here is your response: there are many important academic activities that “count” as homework. These include:

- Review the day’s notes to identify what you do and don’t yet understand; then, formulate questions to ask your teachers;
- Complete a small portion of a long-term project, rather than wait until the last minute;
- Practice important skills such as listening for information; editing your work; writing narrative summaries and note taking;
- Read—anything! This is probably the most important habit students can cultivate to support academic success;
- Study and review for upcoming tests and quizzes.

How?

It is not the parents’ job to closely monitor assignments for most students at the secondary level. Rather, make it clear that you expect to see these academic activities each and every night, no excuses. Students should help choose the time and place; parents should try to refrain from micro-managing the work, unless absolutely necessary.

We are also fortunate to have Moodle teacher web sites that you and your children should regularly access for assignments and other course information.

A regular homework habit is an investment that yields huge returns. Help us support student success—insist on homework!