



Bigelow Middle School Homework Policy For Students

PURPOSE OF POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to make sure that teachers, students, and parents have the same understanding why we have homework and the benefits of it, the amount of time students should spend on homework, and what happens if homework is not completed.

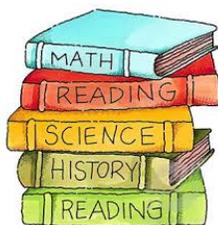


POLICY

Assigning Homework: Homework can help you learn and remember the material you are studying in school. It can also prepare you to become a lifelong learner by helping you learn to study independently and by nurturing a love of learning. You should expect to receive homework on a routine basis.

To make the homework effective, teachers should:

- Make sure that you understand the purpose of a particular homework assignment
- Provide clear instructions about what needs to be done for the assignment to be completed successfully
- Adjust the assignment for students with differing abilities





Completing Homework

In keeping with the school's core values, you are responsible for:

- Knowing what assignments are due, when they are due, and keeping an accurate assignment notebook
- Completing assignments on time
- Turning in homework that is legible and has your name clearly written on it.
- Letting the teacher know before an assignment is due if you do not understand it or will have difficulty completing it on time
- Doing your own work

If homework gets too hard, you should ask for help from a parent, sibling, or classmate/study buddy, but only after you have tried hard on your own.



Amount of Homework: The amount of homework will vary depending on the class and the student. Different students will take more or less time to complete the same homework assignment. The following are the maximum total amounts of time students should generally spend on their homework for all their classes per night:

- Grade 6: No more than 60 minutes.
- Grade 7: No more than 75 minutes.
- Grade 8: No more than 90 minutes.



This time should be focused time without distractions.

Independent Reading: Independent reading is critical to our core values and to your growth. In addition to your time on homework, you should spend at least 20 more minutes per night on independent reading.



Long-term projects will be broken down into steps with deadlines so that you can stay within the maximum time limit if you complete the steps according to plan.

When you begin your homework, think about all of your assignments for that day and figure out how much time should be spent on each subject. That way you will not run out of time and can get to all of your assignments.



You should stop work at the time limit even if you have not finished an assignment. Have a parent/guardian write a note to your teacher saying you reached the maximum homework time and you will not lose credit. Talk to your teacher about a plan to complete that assignment.

It is okay if you occasionally need a little more time than the maximum to finish up an assignment, but if you regularly need a lot more time, then you should let your teacher know. You and your parents should talk with your teachers or your counselor regarding homework overload and make a plan.

If you finish all of your homework before reaching the maximum amount of homework time, you may complete the time with additional independent reading.

SEPTEMBER 2011						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Homework on Weekends: You might have homework assigned during regular weekends up to the maximum total amount for one night. (For example, Grade 6 will have no more than 60 minutes of homework for the entire weekend.) Long weekends and vacations are homework free. Students may use this time to make up missing work or get ahead on long term projects.

Incomplete Homework: Completing your homework is very important for you to make good progress as a student and to develop strong habits and a positive mindset.

Every time you are missing three or more homework assignments or a major project, your parents will be notified by the teacher.





Impact of Homework on Class Grade: Homework quality and completion is an important part of your overall assessment and will not count for more than 30% of your total term grade.

Special Education: For students with individualized education plans, adjustments can be made to this policy.

Recommendations for Students:

- Try to do your homework at the same time each day, if possible.
- Have a well-lit, comfortable, and quiet study location, without any distractions from electronic devices, social media, etc.
- Make sure you have all your school supplies handy in your study location.
- Try on your own first. If you still need help, ask a parent/guardian, sibling, or homework buddy. They should help you, but not give you the answers.
- If you become frustrated with an assignment, set it aside for a while and come back to it later.
- Do NOT wait until the last minute to complete a large project. Plan ahead and keep on schedule.
- Do NOT wait until the last minute to inform a teacher if you are having trouble with an assignment. Let the teacher know well before the assignment is due.
- Try your best! It's okay to make mistakes—they are part of the learning process.

