

Lower Merion School District
ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

Policy No.:
Section:
Title:
Date Last Revised:

132
PROGRAMS
HOMEWORK
6/3/11; 12/19/88

R132 HOMEWORK

This regulation implements Board policy regarding homework.

As the student advances through the grades, homework assignments should increase gradually in complexity and in the expected amount of time required for completion. Because students differ in abilities, needs, and interests, they require varying amounts of time to complete similar assignments and some students may require homework assignments that are different from those given to peers. Homework assignments, therefore, should be differentiated for students as appropriate. Furthermore, teacher autonomy with respect to assigning homework should be balanced with the need for aligning similar courses.

A. Purposes of Homework Assignments

Homework assignments are designed to:

1. Provide feedback to teachers about student learning;
2. Develop and reinforce skills needed for success and life-long learning;
3. Lead to independence and self-discipline in completing individual assignments;
4. Foster effective collaboration when group tasks are assigned;
5. Expand the student's depth of understanding and ability to apply learning;
6. Broaden and stimulate intellectual/creative development;
7. Reinforce problem-solving approaches and techniques;
8. Expand the student's appreciation of the world in which he/she lives; and
9. Instill a sense of confidence in the student for attaining a recognized objective.

B. Role of the Teacher in Homework Assignment

The teacher's role is to:

1. Make certain that the assignment has genuine meaning;

Lower Merion School District

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

Policy No.:

132

Section:

PROGRAMS

Title:

HOMEWORK

Date Last Revised:

6/3/11; 12/19/88

2. Make the purpose and expected outcome of the homework clear, so that students will be able to proceed independently within a reasonable and developmentally appropriate timeframe;
3. Recognize that all students benefit from appropriately assigned homework and conversely, do not benefit from homework that is not assigned appropriately;
4. When practical, supervise the beginning of any assignment so that the student understands what is required and is able to complete it independently;
5. Provide students with sound study skills, as needed;
6. Differentiate tasks for all students, as appropriate, to address student interests, learning styles, and achievement levels. Additionally, teachers need to be familiar with documented individual student needs, such as may be found in Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), Gifted Individualized Education Programs (GIEPs), Section 504 Service Agreements, and records pertaining to students with limited English proficiency.;
7. Provide access to all needed materials and resources;
8. Understand that not all students have optimal resources at home to complete homework;
9. Take into consideration other District-related and non-District-related demands on student's time when assigning homework, such as prominent school functions;
10. Be certain that homework assignments are completed by students within an appropriate timeline while not unduly interfering with bona fide religious observances;
11. Assess student understanding of the learning task and follow up with classroom instruction;
12. Evaluate assigned homework in a timely and appropriate manner that is not unduly or unfairly punitive with respect to late or incomplete homework;
13. Communicate with parents and student as needed to ensure that teacher and parent are aware of difficulties and other issues of concern the student is having successfully completing homework assignments so that the teacher has the opportunity to offer support.

Lower Merion School District
ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

Policy No.:
Section:
Title:
Date Last Revised:

132
PROGRAMS
HOMEWORK
6/3/11; 12/19/88

C. Role of the Student in Homework Assignment

The student's role is to:

1. Make certain that he/she understands the requirements of the assignment as to its purpose, format, and due date;
2. Assume responsibility for completion of individual assignments;
3. Utilize study tools and available materials;
4. Manage study time effectively in school and at home; and
5. Work cooperatively to complete the student's part of any assignments involving the cooperation of one or more classmates.
6. Communicate with teacher as needed to ensure that teacher is aware of difficulties student is having successfully completing homework assignments so that the teacher has the opportunity to offer support.

D. Parent/Guardian

Parents/guardians are encouraged to assist in the homework process by:

1. Providing an atmosphere which is conducive to studying and completing assignments;
2. Encouraging the student to study at a regular time;
3. Assisting the student in understanding what homework has been assigned;
4. Encouraging the student to work independently while completing assignments in a timely and legible fashion, consistent with teacher expectations and student ability.
5. Assisting the student with time-management.
6. Communicate with teacher as needed to ensure that teacher is aware of difficulties student is having successfully completing homework assignments so that the teacher has the opportunity to offer support

Lower Merion School District

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

Policy No.:

132

Section:

PROGRAMS

Title:

HOMEWORK

Date Last Revised:

6/3/11; 12/19/88

E. Homework in the Elementary School

1. Informal homework such as listening to stories, watching an educational program, or collecting materials to be used in the classroom should be the initial type of assignment given to children as they begin their school career. Parents of primary school children may assist in their children's reading skills development by reading aloud to them.
2. Formal homework should be introduced when the students are considered ready to benefit from it. Beginning with first grade, such assignments should typically require no more than 10 minutes per evening to prepare. Assignments should be based upon the teacher's knowledge of each student and the teacher's judgment as to the appropriateness and frequency of the assignments.
3. The amount of time needed for formal homework should be increased by no more than 10 minutes per year for grades 2, 3, 4, and 5 so that by fifth grade, no more than 50 minutes of homework will typically be assigned to students. This total amount of homework is exclusive of the daily recommended reading assigned to students in grades K-6.
4. Elementary school teachers should not assign homework on weekends on a regular basis. When homework is given over a weekend, including a three day weekend, it should be expected to take no longer to complete than a typical single night's homework.
5. Homework should not be given shortly before a Holiday Break that is expected to be completed over the Holiday Break. In this context, "Holiday Break" means one of the following: the Thanksgiving Holiday Break, the Winter Break or the Spring Break.
6. Homework assignments should have due dates and times that correspond with regular school days and hours. In other words, homework assignments should not be given due dates or times that occur in the evening or over weekends or holidays.
7. While reminders of homework assignments may be posted electronically on LMSD-Net, homework should be assigned in the actual class to which it relates.
8. In order to be meaningful and effective, homework needs to be checked and assessed for completion and correctness on a regular basis. Each teacher needs to inform students and parents at the beginning of the year regarding how homework will be assigned, assessed, and included as part of the student's grade.

Lower Merion School District
ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

Policy No.:
Section:
Title:
Date Last Revised:

132
PROGRAMS
HOMEWORK
6/3/11; 12/19/88

F. Homework in the Middle School

1. Formal homework assignments should typically require no more than an average of 10 to 15 minutes per academic subject in sixth grade, 15-20 minutes per academic subject in seventh grade, and 20 to 25 minutes per subject in eighth grade. However, no more than a total of 60 minutes should be spent on homework in sixth grade, 70 minutes in seventh grade, and 80 minutes in eighth grade. Therefore, it is imperative that the middle school team members communicate and collaborate frequently to ensure that students are not given homework assignments that could reasonably be expected to exceed these times.
2. Unless other arrangements cannot be made, only one pre-announced test (as opposed to a quiz) in a core content area per day should be scheduled.
3. When homework is given over a weekend, including a three day weekend, it should be expected to take no longer to complete than a typical single night's homework.
4. Homework should not be given shortly before a Holiday Break that is expected to be completed over the Holiday Break. In this context, "Holiday Break" means one of the following: the Thanksgiving Holiday Break, the Winter Break or the Spring Break.
5. Homework assignments should have due dates and times that correspond with regular school days and hours. In other words, homework assignments should not be given due dates or times that occur in the evening or over weekends or holidays.
6. While reminders of homework assignments may be posted electronically on LMSD-Net, homework should be assigned in the actual class to which it relates.
7. In order to be meaningful and effective, homework needs to be checked and assessed for completion and correctness on a regular basis. Each teacher needs to inform students and parents at the beginning of the year in writing regarding how homework will be assigned, assessed, and included as part of the student's grade.

G. Homework in the High School

1. Students in high school generally need to carry an average of 5.25 credits each year in order to meet the district graduation requirement of 21 credits. Generally, a ninth grade student carrying the typical number of credits should expect to spend approximately ninety minutes per day on homework, either in school or at home. This expected amount of time should increase by no more than 10 minutes per year for the following three years, so that by senior year, 12th graders should typically expect to receive no more than two hours of homework per day.

Lower Merion School District

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

Policy No.:

Section:

Title:

Date Last Revised:

132

PROGRAMS

HOMEWORK

6/3/11; 12/19/88

2. The Lower Merion School District does not limit the number of courses a high school student can take during the regular school day nor is there a restriction on the number of AP, Honors or IB courses a student may take. Therefore, a student choosing to take more than 5.25 credits a year and/or taking one or more AP, Honors or IB courses should expect the amount of homework to be greater than the amount of homework expected of students taking fewer credits and students not taking AP, Honors or IB courses.
3. Students planning to take more than a typical caseload of credits and/or planning to take one or more AP, Honors or IB courses should meet with their school counselor in advance of scheduling in order to discuss time-management issues relating to homework and how this decision may impact the ability to engage in other school and non-school related activities.
4. Whenever possible, the test/examination schedule should be structured so as to avoid assigning more than two full-class period examinations per day. Also, no more than 2 midterms or finals should be scheduled for the same day.
5. When homework is given over a weekend, including a three day weekend, it should be expected to take no longer to complete than a typical single night's homework.
6. Homework should not be given shortly before a Holiday Break that is expected to be completed over the Holiday Break. In this context, "Holiday Break" means one of the following: the Thanksgiving Holiday Break, the Winter Break or the Spring Break.
7. Homework assignments should have due dates and times that correspond with regular school days and hours. In other words, homework assignments should not be given due dates or times that occur in the evening or over weekends or holidays.
8. Homework assignments should not be posted electronically on LMSD-Net unless students have been informed in advance during class that the homework will be posted.
9. In order to be meaningful and effective, homework needs to be checked and assessed for completion and correctness on a regular basis. Each teacher needs to inform students and parents in writing at the beginning of the year regarding how homework will be assigned, assessed, and included as part of the student's grade.