



**Current Practices Around  
Homework  
PreK – 8 at BTMES  
May 4, 2016**

# Guiding Questions:

1. Approximately how much time are students expected to spend on homework?
2. What types/forms of homework are expected? To what extent is homework practice vs. new learning?
3. How is homework assessed?
4. How does homework figure into final grades, if at all?
5. What are the consequences for not completing homework?
6. What supports are in place to help complete homework?
7. Any other information that your grade-level team has regarding homework that would be helpful?

# Approximately how much time are students expected to spend on homework?

## Grade:

**PreK:** No assigned homework at this grade level.

**K:** One math worksheet a week and books for reading.

**1:** 10 – 15 minutes per night.

**2:** 20 minutes per night.

**3:** The goal is 30 minutes per night (ELA & Math combined)

**4:** Math: 150 minutes each week    ELA: 120 minutes each week

**5:** No more than 1 hour each night.

**6:** No more than 1 hour total for all subjects combined. Not a nightly expectation.

**7:** Math: No more than 1 hour a night    Science: 1-2 hours a week    ELA: 20 min. night    S.Studies: 3-5 hours a week

**8:** Assigned 2 – 3 times per week. Homework should take about 20 – 30 minutes per class.

# **What types/forms of homework are expected? To what extent is homework practice vs. new learning?**

## **Grades PreK - 4:**

**PreK:** **\*\*Not homework\*\*** Lending library with an activity. Activities that support VELs. Share (personal/letter of week)

**K:** Reading, Math & Word Work—all practice.

**1:** Spelling, Math, Reading, LLI/RR, LREBC. –all practice.

**2:** All homework is practice...Math: 2 times per week ELA: 3 times per week

**3:** All homework is practice. Math is given out on Monday, due back on Friday. ELA—Read 15 min. each night.

**4:** All homework is practice. Math: computation, math facts, lesson reviews. ELA: Indep. Reading, writing about reading.

# **What types/forms of homework are expected? To what extend is homework practice vs. new learning?**

## **Grades 5 - 8:**

**5:** ELA: Read nightly, quarterly book project, spelling, editing practice, short reading responses.

Math: weekly comp. each Friday that is due following Thur. In addition, 2 math homework assignments, a week.

S.Studies: Current Issues

Science: Complete what doesn't get accomplished in class.

**6:** Weekly homework assignment in Math and ELA. Assigned on Fridays and collected the following Friday.

Math: Computation practice ELA: Reading/Writing skills practice

**7:** Math: ACE homework is practice. Computation is practicing previously taught skills. (+, -, x)

Science: Minimal reading/writing—Practice of concepts taught in class.

ELA: Independent reading...vocabulary revisions, drafting/editing/revising, designing visual aids to support presentation

S. Studies: Homework is started in class—due 5 to 7 days later.

**8:** Social Studies: Approximately 2/3 new learning and 1/3 review.

Math - Approximately 90% practice and 10% new learning

Language Arts - Mostly practice. Analysis, summarizing, basic skills.

Science - 40% guided reading/questions of newly taught material, 40% practice and 20% complete work not finished in class

# How is homework assessed?

## Grades K - 4:

**K:** Not assessed. Checked for answers and returned home.

**1:** Done/not Done

**2:** The team keeps track of completion, but does not assess.

**3:** Reading logs are checked weekly.

Math is scored over the weekend and handed back Monday morning.

**4:** Reading is graded on a rubric (4, 3, 2, 1)

Math is graded by correct/incorrect or completed/not completed

## How is homework assessed?

### **Grades 5 - 8:**

**5:** Math assignments are scored and graded—sometimes they are given completion checks, without grades.

ELA/Science/S.Studies are assessed with rubrics or checklists and then a grade is given.

**6:** Math: Weekly comps are graded because skills are expected to be mastered. Work is always gone over the next day as a whole class for understanding.

ELA: Regular weekly homework is assessed and calculated as part of the overall grade. Other sporadic assignments are often gone over in class and used as part of a working assignment (essay, longer writing piece, etc.)

**7:** Math: ACE homework is graded completely on effort.

Science: Grades are given based on the correctness of the answers. All students can revise & resubmit, should they like.

ELA: Tool used to reach the final product.

S. Studies: Work is graded and comments are made against a rubric which accompanies each assignment.

**8:** No information was supplied by the team.

## **How does homework figure into final grades, if at all?**

### **Grades K - 8:**

**K:** Homework is not figured in the final grades.

**1:** This is marked on the Social/Personal Skills—Does not effect final grades in subject areas.

**2:** A section on the report card is devoted to homework completion

**3:** Homework performance is only reflected in their homework grade on the report card.

**4:** There is a grade on the report card for homework completion with effort.

**5:** ELA/S.Studies: 50% of their quarterly grade is from homework/classwork.

Math/Science: 20-30% of a student's grade

**6:** Math/ELA: Weekly assignments are collected and graded because skills are expected to be mastered.

Science/Geo: Homework is factored into their homework/classwork category and combined makes up 30% of the grade.

Homework completion is favored into that 15% of the grade as stated in our homework policy.

**7:** Math: Homework is 25% of their quarterly grade.

Science: Approximately 25% - 30% of their final grade.

**8:** Homework has a weight of 10% to 25%. Looking at cutting this to 10% for 16-17 year.



# What are the consequences for not completing homework?

## Grades K - 4:

**K:** No consequences

**1:** No consequences for not completing homework. Rewards: Stickers, free time

**2:** Students can complete homework in the morning.

**3:** Varies by teacher and individual student circumstances. We differentiate the assignments for students with varying abilities.

**4:** Homework slip for parent signature/call to parent.

## **What are the consequences for not completing homework?**

### **Grades 5 - 8:**

**5:** Reminder/Call home and stays for Homework Club—Each day the assignment is late, 5 points are deducted. Three missing assignments=meeting with Mr. Crowley.

Outstanding Work Completion Award

**6:** Homework counts towards quarter grades. Each course has a homework category that is weighted 15% of the final quarter grade.

100-90%--first missing assignment

Two missing assignments—call home

Three missing assignments—meeting with Mr. Crowley to create a plan. (Saturday School)

**7:** Math & Science: Missing assignments= zero. Saturday School

ELA: All graded assignments must be completed. Saturday School

S. Studies: Consequences vary, depending on the individual students.

**8:** Full-credit for completing an assignment, partial credit for completing after initial due-date.

## **What supports are in place to complete homework?**

### **Grades K - 8:**

**K:** No supports in place.

**1:** No supports in place.

**2:** Teachers work with students, in the morning, as appropriate.

**3:** Homework Club, morning work time, lunch group 1-2 times a week.

**4:** Homework Club,

**5:** Homework Club, lunch & recess times

**6:** Homework Club, assignment notebook, availability during lunch & recess, emailing teachers, math answer key, use of TA to check-in

**7:** Practiced & modeled in class, support before & after school, study hall

**8:** Practiced, modeled & started in class.

## **Additional information from grade-level teams regarding homework.**

### **Grades K – 8:**

**K:** Students in LLI are asked to read their books nightly. Talk about the importance of reading, writing and practicing math skills nightly.

**1:** Some bus rides are very long for 6 – 7 year olds who then take dance, sports, etc., which takes up a great deal of time.

Homework takes away from playtime and family time. Home life should be treasured not pressured. Dinnertime as a family is more important than homework time.

Barre Town/Barre City U61 Homework Policy should be aligned with research-based studies.

**2:** Even though we explain to parents that if the math is too difficult or confusing to just send it back with a note, parents continue to show their child the way *they* know how to solve the problem and ends up creating more confusion for the student.

**3:** We feel that homework goes smoothly and are glad that we aligned expectations with 4<sup>th</sup> grade earlier this year.

**4:** We would like to further explore Hattie's research regarding homework and implement this on a school-wide basis.

**5 – 8:** No additional information to share.

## Take-aways regarding homework practices

\*What do we believe...

as grade-level teams?

as a PreK – 8 school?

as an SU?

\*What should change/stay the same as students get older?

\*Aligned of systems is critical. RE: freedom of choice

\*Continue this dialogue—

a. J. Hattie research

b. beliefs—BC/SHS/ SU??

c. Creating one universal system that is consistent and systemic throughout the grades.