



High School Home Learning (homework) Philosophy and Practice

Activities designed for students to complete at home may be one part of the formative assessment process. Home learning enhances classroom learning by giving students opportunities to make connections as well as expand and reflect on their knowledge and skills. Moreover, because of the limited time available in a class period, students may have preparatory assignments to do at home in order to participate in a meaningful way in class discussions and activities.

Home learning is just one component of the learning process - it should not dominate a student's time outside of the classroom. While teachers recognise the importance of this balance, it is also important that students recognise the need for this balance when selecting courses.

We believe that home learning should:

- contain relevant and meaningful tasks that give students a clear sense of progress towards eventual mastery.
- be differentiated when appropriate, with some choice about task based on a student's individual needs.
- be developmentally appropriate and not require outside help from peers, parents or tutors.
- receive timely feedback, either written or through discussion with their teachers and peers.

Home learning tasks may be scored as a part of the feedback process but will not be included as part of the summative grade for the course. However, a student's unwillingness or inability to submit and or complete home learning tasks will be reflected in the Learning Habits Rubric, inhibit meaningful participation in class, and has the potential to adversely affect performance on summative assessments.

Home learning tasks will not be assigned over extended holidays (*one week and longer*) or during interim. *The only exception when it is permissible to give work over an extended holiday would be if a student needs to make up missed work.* In addition, no long-term assignments can be due, nor summative assessments given, the first class meeting after an extended break.