2022-23 Homework Policy

Homework is a means of reviewing, expanding and reflecting upon what is learned in the classroom, reinforcing skills and developing habits of mind, preparing for upcoming lessons. It provides opportunities for analytical thinking and practice, developing time management skills and personalizing learning. As students move from 9th to 12th year, expectations for the complexity and duration of homework increase, supporting development in cognition and executive function. This policy is intended to balance student health and wellness, while providing learning activities that inspire and adequately challenge students.

Responsibilities and expectations regarding homework:

- **The school defines homework** as any work that a teacher assigns outside of class, including daily practice, studying for assessments, project and group work, writing essays, et al.
- **Teachers assign homework** that balances a rich college preparatory education with an awareness of the full lives of LWHS students and their families. In assigning homework, teachers will center issues of equity, access and mental health.
- **Teachers announce the homework** that is to be completed for the next class meeting during class. If the work is new or unfamiliar, teachers will set the context and expectations for learning.
- **Teachers post homework** assignments with clear directions on the school website no later than 4pm on the day on which it was assigned. Students will not be expected to complete any homework assigned or modified after that point. Teachers will *strive* to post a week's homework on the prior Friday, in order to further support student growth in planning and organization.
- **Teachers will design homework** assignments that require **on average** up to 45 minutes for 9th and 10th graders to complete (in a quiet, study-focused space), and between 45 and 60 minutes for 11th and 12th grades. Students should recognize that these times are ideals, and that some assignments may take more or less time to complete. *Teachers should check with students daily to monitor how long assignments are taking to complete*.
- **Teachers will not assign homework** over specific holiday breaks, including the November fall break, and Winter and Spring breaks.
- **Students will check their homework** assignments daily and develop the habit of contacting the appropriate teacher with clarifying questions about homework at least a day before it is due.
- **Students will allocate** up to three hours of focused distraction-free homework time into their daily schedules. A student who consistently spends significantly more time will consult with their teacher, advisor, or the appropriate grade level dean.
- **Students should consider** that the number and the kind of courses taken often determines homework load.