

BONITA UNIFIED
School District

Educational Services

INSTRUCTION-HOMEWORK

Homework is a valuable tool to help students maximize the school experience. It reinforces classroom learning, builds responsibility, and develops essential study habits. Homework is one vehicle for home-school communication and must be planned to strike a balance between academics, family life, and the child's needs.

1. Assigned homework is to be clear and relevant to ongoing class studies and provides needed practice, remediation or enrichment. It is to be a factor in assessment and grading.
2. Homework assignments shall be reviewed, evaluated, and feedback provided to students within a reasonable time. Reasonable time as defined here, means that it is still pertinent to ongoing studies.
3. The frequency and length of assignments outside the class may vary according to individual student needs and complexity of curriculum.
4. Teachers will communicate due dates to parents and students regarding assignments, tests, and projects to allow ample time for preparation and planning.
5. The total amount of homework, not including independent reading (as outlined in number six below), is based on the following recommended District guidelines:

For elementary school:

- a. Kindergarten should be assigned homework no more than four times per week, requiring an average time of ten (10) minutes each night to complete.
- b. First grade students should be assigned homework no more than four times per week, requiring an average time of ten (10) to fifteen (15) minutes each night to complete.
- c. Second grade students should be assigned homework no more than four times per week, requiring an average time of twenty (20) minutes each night to complete.
- d. Third grade students should be assigned homework no more than four times per week, requiring an average time of thirty (30) minutes each night to complete.
- e. Fourth grade students should be assigned homework no more than four times per week, requiring an average time of forty (40) minutes each night to complete.

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- f. Fifth grade students should be assigned homework no more than four times per week, requiring an average time of fifty (50) minutes each night to complete.

For middle school:

- g. Sixth grade students should be assigned an average of 240 minutes of homework per week (for example, four times per week requiring approximately sixty (60) minutes each night to complete).
- h. Seventh grade students should be assigned an average of 280 minutes of homework per week (for example, four times per week requiring approximately seventy (70) minutes each night to complete).
- i. Eighth grade students should be assigned an average of 320 minutes of homework per week, (for example, four times per week requiring approximately eighty (80) minutes each night to complete). Accelerated or honors classes may require additional hours per week.

For high school:

- j. Ninth through twelfth grade students in general academic classes should expect an average of six to ten hours of homework per week. Accelerated, honors, and advanced placement class assignments require additional hours per week to complete.
6. In addition to regular homework, students are expected to read outside of school daily. Reading outside the classroom should be a balance between self-selected readings and teacher-assigned texts. Teachers may provide guidance as to selection to ensure that students are reading a good representation of grade level appropriate narrative and expository texts. Students are also to be given the opportunity to self-select reading materials at their independent reading levels. Below are suggested guidelines for accomplishing this goal.

For grades K to 3, 80 to 100 minutes per week.

For grades 4 to 5, 120 to 150 minutes per week

For grades 6 to 8, 150 or more minutes per week

7. Parents are encouraged to contact the student's teacher or Student Service Coordinator if they observe either excessive or insufficient time being spent on homework or if they have questions concerning specific homework assignments.

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8. Teachers may make modifications to homework assignments based on a parent/teacher conference, student study team's recommendations and/or a student's individualized education program (IEP).
9. Secondary students, Student Service Coordinators, and parents need to take homework expectations into consideration when developing a student schedule for the semester/year for accelerated, honors and advanced placement classes.
10. Each site shall clearly articulate the District homework policies and regulations to staff, parents, guardians, and students.