

HOMEWORK

PHILOSOPHY

Consistent with educational research, the Bangor School Departments recognizes and values the supporting role that homework plays in student development and the pursuit of academic excellence. Homework most enhances learning and achievement when based on these principles:

1. High Quality: Clear and purposeful alignment between the skills and concepts taught at school and those practiced, reinforced, or extended through homework.
2. Feedback: Timely feedback to students and the use of student performance on homework to inform classroom instruction.
3. Support: Opportunities on the classroom and school levels for students to receive help with homework.
4. Student Responsibility: The importance of homework in the development of time management and self-advocacy skills.
5. Parental Involvement: The positive impact of parents showing interest in assignments, monitoring the development of study skills, and allowing students to complete homework independently while still providing encouragement and support.
6. Communication: Clear and open communication between parents, students, and the school about issues related to homework, learning, and achievement.
7. Time: Optimal amounts of homework per grade level improve academic performance.

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

1. Teachers' homework practices (frequency, grading procedures) will be clearly communicated to students and parents early in the school year or semester through a written course/class description, and/or communication from the teacher. Homework is different from "incomplete" class work. Class work not completed during regular school hours may need to be finished at home; however, teachers should monitor the student's needs and causes for incomplete work very closely.
2. Homework assigned for weekends and holidays should be minimized.
3. Homework assignments for each grade level will depend upon or vary with the instructional needs of individual students. The availability of resources in the homes or community of the students will be considered when assigning homework.
4. Homework assignments and major tests will be coordinated so that the students are assigned an approximate total of 10 minutes per grade level per night (10 minutes for grade 1, 20 minutes for grade 2, 30 minutes for grade 3, etc.).
5. Homework for K-2 students will consist of practicing skills already taught at school in areas such as reading, language arts, spelling, and math, collecting items to bring for class sharing, and developing or extending strengths and interests. Homework at these levels should be brief and not expected every day.
6. Long-term projects such as research papers and book reports will be assigned in advance so that students can learn time management and good study habits. A timeline outlining due dates



will be provided with the assignment.

7. Homework assignments for students taking accelerated, Honors, or Advanced Placement courses may require more time than homework assigned in other classes. In addition, these classes may require the completion of summer assignments. Students and parents should consider this time factor when selecting courses.
8. Class work and homework missed during an approved planned absence (see Planned Absence Form) will be assigned a reasonable due date as part of the approval process, which is managed by the building principal.

NOTE: It should be understood that some students will complete some homework assignments during study periods and will not need to spend as many minutes every evening working on homework as are indicated in this policy.

ADOPTED: August 20, 1984

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