

Ahern Middle School
Homework Practices

Middle school homework may be given Monday through Thursday. Weekends, holidays, and vacations are reserved for family time and leisure. Students may choose to use the weekends to review materials, make up work, complete short-term and long-term projects, and enjoy recreational reading.

The Ahern community is sensitive to the religious and cultural needs of our families. Although we make every effort to be sensitive, we sometimes need to be reminded of individual needs. Teachers will be sensitive to families' religious and cultural observances and will provide reasonable accommodations and opportunities to make up homework and/or class work that may have been missed due to such observances. Please contact your child's teachers or counselor if you have a need.

The Ahern Middle School recognizes that students work at different paces and with varying degrees of efficiency. These factors are considered when assignments are made.

Purpose of Homework

The purpose of homework is to assist students in taking ownership of their learning and developing strong studentship skills. Homework should reinforce classroom objectives and enhance the school experience. It allows students to practice skills and apply concepts, based upon work that began in the classroom, and promotes an ongoing interest in learning.

Student Responsibilities

- Students are expected to complete all assigned homework carefully and neatly, follow all directions, and to submit all assigned homework on time. Those who don't will be asked to make up the assignment or to work with a teacher either during the school day or before or after school.
- Students will keep track of homework and other assignments in an agenda and will bring appropriate materials and agendas to and from school.
- Students may stop working once the allotted, focused time for each subject area has been reached. We encourage students to connect with their teachers directly about their learning. If they are unable to complete an assignment or the assignment is taking longer than the homework guidelines, they should speak with their teacher(s). Parents are always invited to contact the teachers as well. Students who do not complete an assignment will not be penalized in their grade provided they demonstrate a focused effort to complete as much as possible.
- Students are responsible for work missed due to absence. It is the responsibility of the student to ask the teacher(s) what was missed and arrange for extra help.
- Students will access homework club in the library after school as needed to complete homework, access help from school staff, and to collaborate with other students on their work.

Teacher Responsibilities

- Teachers will coordinate assignments and assessments so that maximums shared below are not exceeded. House teachers will minimize the number of assessments on the same day using a conflict calendar in each house. House teachers will work to limit major assessments to one per day and not to exceed two per day.
- Teachers will collaborate with their teaching partners across houses to ensure consistency in curricular experiences.
- Teachers will schedule daily, weekly, and/or long-term assignments that are meaningful and useful to support the students' total learning experience and aligned to the Homework Policy and Guidelines.

- Teachers will provide timely and meaningful feedback to students on assignments, and will contact parents/guardians if there are concerns regarding students' homework completion.
- *Teachers cannot be expected to arrange for homework in anticipation of an absence. Please note, teachers are not required or expected to prepare materials in advance if students are taken out of school for vacation.*

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

- Parents will assist students in developing good study habits and provide a specific time and place for study, free of distractions.
- Parents will support students in developing a routine to ensure students can meet their homework responsibilities.
- If a student in grade 5 or 6 has not completed assignments within the timeframes provided in the Homework Guidelines, parents will stop their students and help them communicate with the teacher. A student in grade 7 or 8, who has not completed assignments within the timeframes provided, should stop working and self-advocate by communicating with the teacher. A well-rested student will be better prepared for the next day of learning.
- Students are encouraged to allot time to read for pleasure. Reading for pleasure and music practice times are not included in the time parameters shared below.

Homework Guidelines

The timeframes below are provided with the understanding that students work at different paces and with varying degrees of efficiency. Timeframes may vary for individual students; however, time spent on homework should not exceed the maximum time allotted.

Grades 5 and 6:

Students should spend no more than a focused 50 minutes per night on homework. Generally speaking, homework will focus on concepts and skills in the areas of math and English Language Arts.

Grades 7 and 8:

Students should spend no more than a focused 70-80 minutes per night on homework.

- Monday-Thursday
- Math – up to 20 minutes per night
- ELA/Reading – up to 20-30 minutes per night
- Science/Social Studies – up to 15 minutes per night per subject.
- World Language – homework is occasionally assigned. Students are expected to complete assignments not finished in class and are encouraged to pursue teacher recommended resources for individual practice.

*Students are expected to work diligently during the school day and to complete their assigned schoolwork. If students do not finish their work in class, as a result of disengaging or not putting forth their best effort, this may necessitate completing additional assignments at home.