

# Veritas School

## Homework Philosophy and Guidelines

### Philosophy

Veritas School may assign some amount of homework to many of its students at any given time. Below are the primary reasons or causes for homework being assigned:

1. Students often need some amount of extra practice in specific or new concepts, skills. In certain subjects (e.g. math or languages), there is not enough time in a school day to do as much practice as may be necessary for mastery. Therefore, after reasonable in-class time is spent on the material, the teacher may assign homework to allow for the necessary practice.
2. Repeated, short periods of practice or study of new information is often a better way to learn than one long period of study.
3. Since Veritas School recognizes that parental involvement is critical to a child's education, homework can be used as an opportunity for parents to actively assist their child in his or her studies. This will also keep the parents informed as to the current topics of study in the class.
4. Homework may also be assigned to students who, having been given adequate time to complete an assignment in class, did not use the time wisely. The homework, in this situation, serves a punitive, as well as practical, purpose.

### Guidelines for Assigning Homework

Since homework, by its nature, takes time at home, it is not to be assigned due to the teacher's poor planning or in place of an assignment that could have been completed in school.

The necessity for doing homework will vary from grade to grade and even from student to student. The guide below should be regarded as maximum times, not as required minimum times, and then only if homework is assigned. A Weekly Homework Assignment Sheet is used in the elementary grades as a way for the teacher to keep the students and parents aware of what to expect each week.

Grade	Maximum Approximate Time Per Week Night*
K	NONE
1st – 2nd	20-40 Minutes (infrequently)
3rd	30-45 Minutes (as needed)
4th – 5th	45 Minutes
6th	45-60 Minutes
7th – 8th	60-75 Minutes
9th – 10th	75-90 Minutes
11th - 12th	90-120 Minutes

\*Normally homework is not to be assigned over the weekends or holidays and vacation periods.

1. Purpose of homework:
  - a. Homework is assigned to increase student learning and extend classroom learning beyond the school environment.
  - b. We seek to provide a rigorous education for our students. However, rigor is not achieved by requiring the students to complete nine to ten hours of schoolwork each day. Rather, we want to provide academic rigor through stimulating students in their thinking.
  - c. Parents should contact their child's teacher(s) at the first indication of problems either with clarity of homework or amount assigned. Early and frequent communication between parent and teacher is the surest way to solve potential homework issues. Parents should not assume that the problem rests with their child until they have sought more information from the teacher. Frequent feedback helps classroom teachers to keep homework within school guidelines.
2. Guidelines for teachers:
  - a. Make expectations for the homework assignment clear to the students. Explain the purpose of the assignment.
  - b. Homework assignments may not be complex or novel. Homework should focus on simple skills and material or on the integration of skills already possessed by the students.
  - c. Homework may not to be assigned to punish students.
  - d. Assignments should be the same for all students and should not be individualized (the same type of assignment should be required of all students although specific topics may vary).
  - e. Teachers should give the students time to begin working on assignments during class. Homework then consists of work that was not completed during class. In most subjects, some of the best students should complete the assignment during the class time provided.
  - f. Teachers must collect homework, check it for completeness, and give intermittent instructional feedback. Teachers are not required to grade every homework assignment. Homework assignments should be used to locate problems in student progress and to individualize instruction.
  - g. Homework should not be assigned over weekends, Christmas vacation, or Spring Break.
3. Homework limitations (expectations for the "B" student):
  - a. 7th and 8th grades: An average of one hour each night, not to exceed a total of 1½ hours on any given night.
  - b. Freshmen and Sophomores: An average of 75 minutes each night, not to exceed a total of 1¼ hours on any given night.
  - c. Juniors and Seniors: An average of 1½ hours each night, not to exceed a total of two hours on any night.
  - d. In general, teachers should figure approximately ten minutes of homework in the 7th and 8th grades, and 15 minutes of homework in the high school, for every hour of class time per day.

4. Specific guidelines by course:
  - a. PE, Studio and Performing Arts: Limited homework may be assigned subject to administrative approval.
  - b. Theology and Science: Completion of assignments not finished during allotted time in class, reviewing information presented during class (such as studying for tests).
  - c. Math: Completion of problems not finished during class.
  - d. Humane Letters (history and literature): Completion of reading or writing assignments not finished during class. Junior and Seniors: Teachers may assign short sections of reading, not to exceed an average of 25 minutes, to be completed outside class. Reading in literature books has the highest priority of all assigned homework.
  - e. Art History: Completion of reading or writing assignments not finished during class.
  - f. French/Latin/Greek: Completion of assignments not finished during class. Review of vocabulary and grammar. Not to exceed 15 minutes.
  - g. Rhetoric & Logic: Preparation for presentations and tests.
  - h. Students who have been absent and have work to complete and/or students who need extra work to maintain a satisfactory level of learning, may have to spend more time completing homework.