

Rationale

Homework provides students with opportunities to consolidate their classroom learning. It promotes a pattern of behaviour for lifelong learning beyond the classroom and involves family members in their learning. The setting of homework takes into account the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, recreation, cultural pursuits and employment where applicable.

Objectives

Homework can engage students in independent learning to complement work undertaken in class through:

- Revision and critical reflection to consolidate learning (practising for mastery)
- Applying knowledge and skills in new contexts (a topic of interest, an authentic local issue)
- Pursuing knowledge individually and imaginatively (investigating, researching, writing, designing, making) Preparing for forthcoming classroom learning (collecting relevant materials, items, information)
- Preparing, planning and/or producing information for upcoming assessment tasks

Homework Tasks

At Pimpama State Secondary College, we aim to provide homework that

- Is purposeful and relevant to students needs and appropriate to the phase of learning (junior secondary and senior)
- Is appropriate to the capability of the student & develops the student's independence as a learner
- Is varied, challenging and clearly related to class work
- Does not exceed the recommended level of up to, but generally not over, 5 hours per week for junior secondary students.

There is a degree of legitimate flexibility among teachers in relation to the amount and type of homework which is set. The amount and type of homework may vary from week to week according to the specific work/unit/task covered in class

When school tasks, exams or other assessment items are due students may be required to **spend more than** the recommended 5 hours per week completing work.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment may take place by a variety of methods. Informal (formative) assessment usually occurs at the beginning and during a course of work. Formative assessment provides information to teachers about a student's prior knowledge of a subject and progress towards attainment of learning goals.

Formative assessment generally doesn't count towards a student's final grade.

Formal (summative) assessment usually takes place at or towards the end of a course of work.

Summative assessment may take the form of:

- An exam
 - Assignment (research/inquiry) task
 - Written piece – story, essay, poem, song etc
 - Oral/multimedia presentation
 - Performance
 - Product – art work, cooking etc
1. Students are expected to complete all assessment tasks in every subject by the due date. Results will be adversely affected through failure to complete all assessment.
 2. Assignments and other non-supervised or independent forms of assessment must be worked on systematically over a period of time to produce the best possible results.

3. Students will be given an appropriate period of time to complete an assignment (this would usually be at least 4 weeks' notice). The amount of time students are given to complete any given task will be commensurate with its complexity.
4. Due Dates for assignments or exam/presentation/performance dates are set so that teachers can make timely judgements about students' achievements at a particular stage of the course of study.
5. Assessment tasks must be presented on the due date unless there are exceptional circumstances. Each situation will be judged on its merit and extensions are not automatically granted.

Responsibilities

Teachers:

- Set homework on a regular basis & clearly communicate the purpose, benefits and expectations of all homework.
- Check homework regularly and provide timely and useful feedback.
- Explicitly teach strategies to develop organisational and time-management skills and providing opportunities to practice these
- Give consideration to student's academic and personal when setting homework
- Discuss with parents and caregivers any developing problems concerning their child's homework and suggest strategies to assist with their homework
- Establish and follow up with clearly articulated consequences for failure to complete set homework and contact parents as needed if homework is not regularly completed.

Students:

- Be aware of the school's homework policy & discuss with parents or caregivers homework expectations
- Accept responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames
- Follow up on comments made by teachers & seek assistance when difficulties arise
- Organise time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities and part-time employment
- Complete detentions set by the teacher for failing to do homework set and catch up on work missed

Parents/ Guardians

- Read to them, talk with them and involve them in tasks that support homework and help them to complete tasks by discussing key questions or directing them to resources
- Encourage them to organise their time and take responsibility for their learning
- Encourage them to read and to take an interest in and discuss current local, national and international events
- Help them to balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games, playing sport and engaging in other recreational activities
- Contact the relevant teacher to discuss any concerns about the nature of homework and their children's approach to the homework.
- Support the school when detentions for failing to complete homework are set and no extenuating circumstances exist.