



Burnie High School Homework Policy



Preamble

As a school community we believe homework is an important part of all children's secondary education.

We believe we have the support of nearly all parents in this belief.

Educational research shows that learning is supported and enhanced by the completion of relevant homework experiences.

We acknowledge and appreciate that student involvement in sport, social events, part time work and time spent with family are also important learning opportunities.

Aims

Homework has several aims and purposes:

- it helps develop in students a responsibility for their own learning, encouraging independence, initiative and reliability.
- homework helps develop personal organisation skills as it requires planning, goal setting and an ability to meet deadlines.
- homework allows parents to take an active part in their student's learning by helping out with homework responsibilities.
- it helps develop negotiating skills as teachers and students discuss time limits, completion dates and working around other commitments which might prevent homework being completed.
- It encourages the growth of a positive work ethic.

Guidelines

Homework takes different forms. It could involve:

- finishing off class work.
- completing a separate homework assignment.
- following up and consolidating class work.
- learning and revising for tests.
- doing extension work or remediation exercises aimed at improving understanding and skills.
- Students should have a healthy balance between their school work (of which homework is a part), their sporting, cultural, social and family life. For this reason:

- Grade 7 and 8 homework should not exceed 3 hours per week or 45 minutes a night, Monday to Thursday.
- Grade 9 and 10 homework should not exceed 4 hours per week.

Teacher Responsibilities

- negotiating time limits and deadlines which take into consideration other commitments.
- following up homework with appropriate assessment, feedback and discussion.
- aiming to keep homework to short, achievable work sessions.
- keeping within agreed time limits for each grade and being considerate of individual student's personal needs and abilities.
- discussing any concerns with students and parents in respect to homework.

Parent Responsibilities

- encouraging regular homework by having a time set aside which works around other commitments and discuss the reason.
- taking an active interest in the work being done by checking their children's organisation and work deadlines.
- treating with skepticism the reply "I haven't got any homework". Well organised students can always be doing more at home.
- contact staff if they have any concerns.

Student Responsibilities

- Use their Communication Booklet to plan and organize their time effectively.
- Complete all homework.
- Negotiate alternative deadlines if they have sporting, work or family commitments, which make the required time frame unreasonable.
- To ensure that they use their homework time to further develop their understanding of issues being covered in class time.