

Instruction**Homework**

The Ridgefield Board of Education provides engaging, relevant and personalized learning experiences and seeks to develop a lifelong passion for learning in all students through a healthy approach to students living a balanced lifestyle.

When assigned, homework will be directly related to work that has or will take place in the classroom. Educators will consider and align homework to the District's Mission Statement and the Vision of the Graduate as well as to the following:

- objectives of the class
- age of the group
- accommodate the individual abilities and readiness of the students
- time required for completion
- timing of when homework is assigned and to be completed (vacations, school activities, holidays, etc.)
- current research and evidence-based practices

The Board instructs the Superintendent or his/her designee to be responsible for creating and implementing regulations that support this policy. The implementation of these regulations shall be annually reviewed and measured by the Superintendent.

Policy adopted: June 11, 2018

RIDGEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Ridgefield, Connecticut

R6154

Instruction**Homework**

The purpose of continued learning beyond the school day aims to:

- Develop the competencies and dispositions of the Vision of the Graduate.
- Rehearse and practice concepts and skills.
- Prepare for new learning and class activities.
- Extend thinking and understanding of presented concepts.
- Promote life skills such as organization, time management, initiation of task, long-term planning and study skills.

The **Ridgefield Public Schools** mission is to provide engaging, relevant and personalized learning experiences so all students can pursue their interests and be prepared for life, learning and work as global citizens.

THE VISION OF THE GRADUATE**COLLABORATIVE**

Graduates who are collaborative contribute cooperatively and responsibly to a team when they are looking for solutions to rigorous and complex problems.

INNOVATIVE

Graduates who are innovative find creative solutions to authentic problems. They think flexibly and critically while gathering information to synthesize and apply what they have learned.

MINDFUL

Graduates who are mindful embrace empathy and advocate respect for themselves and others. Through self-reflection and awareness, they understand diverse cultures and perspectives. They model the conviction that ethics, leadership, and service to others are critical elements of responsible citizenship.

COMMUNICATIVE

Graduates who are communicative strategically navigate, construct, and articulate specific messages. They utilize their communication skills in an effective, clear and precise manner across multiple forms of media literacy.

KNOWLEDGEABLE

Graduates who are knowledgeable are independent learners who draw upon a wide range of skills for different purposes. They seek, gather and critique information from a variety of sources.

RESILIENT

Graduates who are resilient are adaptable and persistent in their journey toward growth on rigorous and complex problems. They embrace failure and are intellectual risk-takers. They are self-motivated, thoughtful and independent decision-makers who value lifelong learning.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

The goal and emphasis of homework at the elementary level is to build fluency and vocabulary, as well as strengthen comprehension and stamina across all content areas through reading on a daily basis. In addition, daily reading supports development of healthy, positive habits and life-long love of learning. Instrument practice for band or orchestra is not included in the times outlined below.

Grade	Time for Reading Across Content Areas
Kindergarten	Approximately 10 minutes (can be read to)
Grade 1	Approximately 15 minutes (can be read to)
Grade 2	Approximately 20 minutes
Grade 3	Approximately 25 minutes*
Grade 4	Approximately 30 minutes*
Grade 5	Approximately 35 minutes* and approximately 10 minutes of math

** Approximate times in grades 3-5 can be inclusive of an Associated Task up to 10 minutes.*

Associated Tasks are those activities that a student would complete after reading.

Reading for...	Example of Associated Task
Reading	Respond to an open-ended question in writing

Writing	Identify various authors' craft and style to create a written piece using similar literary elements
Mathematics	Identify what a multi-step word problem is asking and solve it
Integrated Studies	Draw and label a picture summarizing essential content

Students will:

- Practice being self-directed and independent.
- Build communication and self-advocacy skills, as well as resiliency.

Teachers will:

- Assign homework that is purposeful and engaging.
- Articulate the purpose of homework when it is assigned.
- Assign homework that will enhance skills and concepts presented in class.

Parents can help by:

- Providing time for homework and assisting in organization and time management.
- Encouraging responsibility and perseverance.
- Empowering students to ask for help and advocate for themselves by communicating with teachers.
- Contacting the teacher if there are ongoing concerns regarding homework.

Elementary Homework Practices

- Homework will not be assigned over weekends, school vacations, or religious holidays (identified on school calendar).
- Homework will not be part of a student's overall grade.
- Make up work following absences: Please refer to policy and regulations for student absences.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Homework is meant to be purposeful learning experiences beyond the school day. Teachers are required to collaborate with their teams and other disciplines (music/band, art, health, PE, world language, etc.) to discuss appropriate homework assignments that meet the guidelines for the approximate times listed below. Students are responsible for managing their time in completing these assignments. It is not required that teachers assign homework nightly.

Grade	Time Allotment AND	Time for Reading Across Content Areas
Grade 6	Approximately 40 minutes	20 minutes of reading nightly
Grade 7	Approximately 40 minutes	20 minutes of reading nightly
Grade 8	Approximately 55 minutes	20 minutes of reading nightly

Students will:

- Check Google Classroom on a daily basis for assignments.
- Keep track of their assignments in a systematic way and manage long-term assignments.
- Be aware that time spent taking a break or use of devices not related to school work is not included in time allotments for homework.
- Manage their time in a way that allows for homework completion and healthy sleep habits.
- Advocate for their individual needs by meeting and communicating with teachers to discuss questions or concerns.
- Communicate concerns or questions respectfully and in a timely manner.

Teachers will:

- Assign homework that is purposeful and engaging.
- As assigned, articulate the purpose, directions, expectations and due dates for homework and long-term projects.
- Clarify the type of feedback and when/how feedback will be communicated to the student.
- Aim to post homework in Google Classroom by 2:30 PM. The latest homework can be posted is 3:30 PM. Posted assignments need to be discussed in class the same day.
- Homework will be due at a time determined by the teacher and in accordance with current research on healthy sleep habits for adolescents.
- Monitor the time at which homework assignments are submitted/posted and address concerns as needed.

Parents can help by:

- Providing a supportive environment and time for homework that promotes healthy sleep habits.
- Monitoring the time at which homework assignments are completed.
- Empowering students to ask for help and advocate for themselves by communicating with teachers.
- Contacting the teacher if there are ongoing concerns regarding homework.
- Supporting students with managing make up work after a child's absence.
- Supporting students in adhering to the Academic Integrity Policy as outlined in the Student Handbook.

Middle School Homework Practices

- Homework will NOT be assigned over weekends, school vacations and days off identified on the school calendar. Further, homework cannot be due the day of return from days off identified on the school calendar.
- Homework will NOT be assigned during emergency school closures.
- Homework will NOT be part of a student's overall grade. However, homework WILL receive a separate progression score at the end of each quarter.
- Make up work following absences: Please refer to policy and regulations for student absences.

RIDGEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

A student's selected course of study will determine the amount of time the student spends on homework each day. Students should consider that enrolling in multiple advanced level courses may considerably increase the overall homework load. Within the RHS Program of Studies, all courses are annotated with a Homework Code indicating the level or degree to which homework is present in the course. Teachers teaching the same courses will employ similar homework practices.

RHS CODES

Code	Time Allotment	Nights per week for most students
H1	Approximately 10-20 minutes of homework required	0-3 nights a week
H2	Approximately 20-35 minutes of homework required	3-5 nights a week
H3	Approximately 35-50 minutes of homework required	4-5 nights a week

The Student will...

- Check Google Classroom on a daily basis for assignments.
- Keep track of their assignments in a systematic way and manage long-term assignments.
- Be aware that time spent taking a break or use of devices not related to school work is not included in time allotments for homework.
- Manage their time in a way that allows for homework completion and healthy sleep habits.
- Advocate for their individual needs by meeting and communicating with teachers to discuss questions or concerns.

The Teacher will...

- Assign homework that is purposeful and engaging.
- As assigned, articulate the purpose, directions, expectations and due dates for homework and long-term projects.
- Clarify the type of feedback and when/how feedback will be communicated to the student.
- Aim to post homework in Google Classroom by 2:30 PM. The latest homework can be posted is 3:30 PM. Posted assignments need to be discussed in class the same day.
- Homework will be due at a time determined by the teacher and in accordance with current research on healthy sleep habits for adolescents.
- Monitor the time at which homework assignments are submitted/posted and address concerns as needed.

Parents can help by:

- Providing a supportive environment and time for homework that promotes healthy sleep habits.
- Monitoring the time at which homework assignments are completed.

RHS Homework Practices

- For days off identified on the school calendar, any class can assign homework as long as the assignment is given two days prior to the time off or is due two days after the time off.
- Homework will NOT be assigned during emergency school closures.
- No homework will be assigned over school vacations. Advanced Placement (AP) classes can assign work due after break as a long term assignment, provided the work is assigned at least two weeks before the vacation and not due the day of return.
- The percentage that homework counts towards a quarterly grade will be consistent within each course and level and may not exceed 10%. Homework, if it is included as a category for a quarterly grade for a course, cannot be grouped with other grading categories.

REFERENCES

1. Connecticut General Statutes [10-221](#) Boards of Education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures.
2. 6154 Westport General Homework Guidelines (Revised 2017). CABE
3. 6154 Weston Homework Guidelines (Revised 2000). CABE
4. Policy E -003 Academic Mastery and Comprehensive Assessment System/ Procedure E - 003.06 Homework (Revised 2016). Greenwich, CT. CABE
5. Vatterott, C., (2009) Rethinking Homework: Best Practices That Support Diverse Needs. Alexandria, VA: ASCD.
6. Pope, D., Miles, S., Dunlap, M., Kleiman, J., Selby, S. & Franz, P. (2017) Stanford Survey of Adolescent School Experiences Report: RHS, East Ridge, Scotts Ridge Middle School. Challenge Success: Stanford University.

Regulation accepted by the Board: June 26, 2018

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