

Homework Philosophy

At Lake Highland Preparatory School, homework is designed to help our students achieve at the high academic level necessary for college preparation. Schoolwork done at home provides training in study habits, skills and discipline; it increases background knowledge and conceptual understanding; and it provides experiences in problem solving and self monitoring. A respectful balance between family and community obligations and homework is desired while achieving the overall goal of college preparation.

In general, students in the Lower and Middle Schools should plan for approximately ten minutes times the grade level. In addition, there are responsibilities and tasks such as independent reading and long-term projects added to this amount in the more accelerated and advanced level classes in the Lower School and Middle School. In the Upper School, the students should anticipate 2 to 2.5 hours 5 nights a week as college preparation steps up the pace.

Our homework assignments are deliberately and carefully planned. The goals are class preparation, practice, revision and exploration. As students grow and mature, their capacity to reap benefits from homework increases; therefore, each of our LHP school divisions has graduated expectations with regard to student responsibilities for homework. As student responsibility and abilities increase parent involvement in homework should decrease.

Lower School

PK and K

- No formal homework.
- Parents are asked to read for pleasure with their children daily.
- Occasional family activity related to classroom learning.

Grades 1 and 2

- Homework typically assigned in reading, math and spelling.
- Parental support to assist with basic skill practice.
- Parents are asked to continue reading together for pleasure.

Grades 3, 4, and 5

- Homework approximately 30-60 minutes daily Monday through Thursday.
- Independent reading for pleasure should be reinforced at home.
- Parental support necessary to check that assignments are complete and represent sincere effort and good quality. Student agendas are used to record assignments.
- Parental guidance on occasional projects should be limited to providing materials, assistance with planning, timely completion.

Grade 6

- Homework approximately 40-75 minutes daily Monday through Thursday.
- Weekend homework may be assigned.
- Student agendas are used for recording and tracking assignments and project due dates.
- Independent reading for pleasure should be reinforced at home.
- Parental support may be necessary for studying for tests and project completion.
- Increased student independence on assignments should be encouraged but still monitored by parent as necessary for timely completion and quality.

Middle School

Grades 7 and 8

- As the students become more independent, parents are urged to find a healthy balance between encouraging students to take responsibility for their own academic achievement while still interacting to ensure the student's successful performance in school. Parents should encourage and support the child with homework assignments but should refrain from active parental involvement in the homework itself.
- On an average the Middle School student at LHPS is expected to complete five to eight hours a week of homework. The purpose is to provide opportunities for developmental practice, the application of skills already learned, the development of independent study skills, enrichment activities, and self discipline. Homework should provide reinforcement and is an extension of class instruction. It should serve as a basis for further study and preparation for future class assignments.
- Homework is expected to be submitted on the assigned day. Participation in Lake Highland school-related events (clubs, athletics, and service activities) are not excuses for incomplete homework assignments. Assignments are made far enough in advance for a student to manage his time and anticipate potential conflict between homework due dates and outside activities.
- Many opportunities are present in the middle school to support the student who is very active in extracurricular activities. The student has time during the school day to complete their assignments, including study halls and Mentor Periods. Mentor Periods on Mondays are assigned solely as structured study periods under the direction of their mentor teacher.
- Middle school students at LHPS should spend 2.5 hours each week reading for pleasure. To promote reading for pleasure, our students will participate in the D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read) program during the mentor period on each Wednesday, and every other Thursday.
- At weekly grade-level faculty team meetings, teachers share quiz, test and project dates so that students are not subject to no more than two tests per day. Specific days of the week are assigned for subject area teachers to schedule tests and projects.
- While every effort is made to respect family time on weekends, some homework may be necessary to be completed then. Students are encouraged to develop time management skills so as to finish projects and homework during the school week.

Upper School

Grades 9-12

- The overriding philosophy of Upper School homework is that students must grow in independent learning and in time management skills. The most successful students in LHPS and in college are students who master time management and planning strategies.
- Students should plan on approximately 30 minutes per course, per night for core courses with occasional work in non-core courses.
- Typically students have homework five nights per week including weekends.
- Homework assigned on a Friday is a typical evening's work and includes previewing and planning for the upcoming week.
- Many students use weekends to catch up on long-range projects and plan ahead. Time management is a crucial skill for students to master in the upper level. Long range planning for test preparation and project completion is essential.
- Parent involvement at the Upper School level should be to act as a sounding board, not as a helper. Students should work independently of parents and rely on parents only for minor advice, direction or study skills acquisition if necessary. It is important that students are given the latitude to assume responsibility for their own study before going off to college.
- Students heavily involved in co-curricular activities including student-athletes are expected to manage both their academic and athletic/co-curricular commitments without deadline extensions. In cases such as overnight travel, a teacher may give an extension, but daily practice and games require planning ahead of time in order to comply with homework and project due dates.
- Homework can include reading, writing, study and projects especially in honors level classes.
- Students in Advanced Placement (AP) courses should expect a greater amount of outside reading and study as these are college level courses, with college level writing and reading demands.
- Students who choose to take an aggressive Advanced Placement and honors loads should be committed to significant amounts of study outside the classroom. This is a function of the coursework chosen and the expectation is the student will be successful without time extensions.