

## NEW LIFE ACADEMY SECONDARY HOMEWORK GUIDELINES

### HOMEWORK

The educators at New Life Academy recognize the importance of assigning meaningful and quality homework to students. Homework routinely assigned and assessed, using specific guidelines, results in student achievement, independence, and responsibility and serves as a vital link between school and home.

#### Homework can be:

- **In Class Assignments** are assigned to be completed in class, but some student may need additional time to complete this work.
- **Homework**, the daily, meaningful, quality work assigned to students to be completed during non-instructional hours to increase student knowledge and understanding.
- **Long-term Assignments** such as research or projects that require students to work both in class and outside of class in whatever combination necessary to meet the assignment deadline. Homework time allocations for this definition are flexible and need the team-work of students, parents, and teachers to monitor timelines to ensure the best outcome.

#### Homework has four purposes:

1. **Practice** and application new learning to get as close to mastery as possible.
2. **Preparation** for a new lesson or unit of study in a text for the next class meeting.
3. **Study** to review content to prepare for a test.
4. **Extend or elaborate** instruction and learning by investigating an idea or concept learned.

#### The Teacher's Roles

- Teachers assign homework that **matches students' skills and take** an appropriate amount of time to complete.
- Teachers provide timely feedback, orally or in writing, that provides specific information about students' learning and growth.
- Teachers create clear homework guidelines, maintaining an effective system for communicating to parents and students.
- Teachers teach and discuss study skills and habits, so that students know and understand the basics of how to study and complete quality homework.
- Teachers coordinate with colleagues to ensure that homework is appropriately paced and all students have access to research and resource materials.

#### The Students Role

- Students are committed to frequent practice of new and developing skills.
- Students are responsible in ensuring that they understand why homework was assigned and how to do it before leaving class.
- Complete and submit homework assignments by the due date. Please refer to the Student Handbook for missed work guidelines.
- Complete all assignments honestly in accordance with the teacher's directions.
- Commit to doing their best work on all assignments.

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### The Parents Role

- Parents coach and support, providing opportunities for your children to be successful, but do not do the assignment.
- Encourage students to communicate with the teacher about homework parameters and to ask their teacher(s) clarifying questions concerning their homework.
- Communicate with the teacher(s) when necessary. Students need to be in charge of their own learning, but we are all invested in ensuring students are successful.
- Promote honesty and integrity in homework completion. (Discourage cheating, plagiarism, and having too much input of others in the completion of homework.)

### **Homework Guidelines**

Students might not bring homework home every day. However, regular homework, especially for students in fourth grade and up, has been proven to support academic success. The time spans in the chart below are guidelines, there may be times when students have no homework, or have slightly more.

**Daily Independent Reading:** Daily Independent Reading is time spent with books children want to read and enjoy. Research supports that daily independent reading in home AND in school significantly effects reading success and increases their motivation and interest to read.

#### **Daily Homework Assignment Guidelines by Grade Levels:**

<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Daily Time for Homework</b>
<b>Grades 6-8</b>	<b>60 minutes (Plus 30 minutes of daily independent reading.)</b>
<b>Grades 9-12</b>	<b>90-120 minutes (Plus 30 minutes of daily independent reading.) (AP and advanced courses require more study time.)</b>

*If you find that your child is spending more than this suggested time on a regular basis, talk about it with your child. Please provide helpful feedback to your child's teacher periodically, so that we can ensure that our Homework Policy is meeting the needs of our learners.*

*Note: Assignments that require going to the public library or using other external resources will include a weekend to accommodate working families.*

#### **Late Work:**

Grades 6-8: Assignments are considered late if not handed in by the end of the school day. For every school day an assignment is late the total grade will be deducted 10%. Late work will be accepted for 5 school days, after that it will be a zero in the grade book.

Math Grades 7-12: Students are expected to complete all assignments on time and turn it in by the due date. Homework that is not turned in on time will be reduced by 50%. After two weeks, the assignment will no longer be accepted for credit. Long term assignments will be reduced by 10% each day for one week after the assignment is due. Long-term assignments turned in after one week will be reduced 50%. All assignments and homework are expected to be turned in, regardless of point/percentage loss.

Grades 9-12: Students are expected to complete all assignments on time and turn it in by the due date. Homework that is not turned in on time will be reduced by 50%. After two weeks, the assignment will no longer be accepted for credit. Long term assignments will be reduced by 10% each day for one week after the assignment is due. Long-term assignments turned in after one week will be reduced 50%. All assignments and homework are expected to be turned in, regardless of point/percentage loss.