

Jackson Intermediate Center Homework Policy

Guidelines for the Assignment of Homework and Responsibilities of Students, Staff and Parents

Homework is important to student learning at Jackson Intermediate Center. The purpose of this homework plan is to guide teachers, parents and students in ensuring that homework is meaningful and supports the learning experience for all students.

Definition

Homework is any activity or assignment directed by the teacher to be performed outside the classroom that may include practicing skills learned in class, reading, studying, projects, or completion of assignments.

Guidelines for Homework

Activities or assignments that: 1) can be completed independently within a reasonable time amount of time. 2) connected to grade level or subject matter curriculum, 3) connected to class instruction, 4) engaging, purposeful and relevant, and 5) quality over quantity.

Major Projects

Major Projects include research reports, book reports, major essays, and other assignments teachers designate as major projects. Work on these projects may exceed the maximum minutes per night.

Late Work Policies

All homework will be accepted. Students will have a minimum of one day grace period to turn late assignments in to the teacher. The point value of the homework may be decreased at the teacher's discretion up to 50%.

A classroom procedure will indicate how and where missing assignments are located. A location and procedure for submitting homework (late or on time) will be posted and used consistently.

If a student is chronically not turning in homework, a parent contact will be made. If the pattern continues, a parent conference will be scheduled by the teacher and the counselor and administration may be included.

Teacher Guidelines

- Review, discuss and return, if collected, homework in a timely manner.
- Whenever possible, communicate and coordinate assignments so that students do not receive an overload of homework.
- Explain homework assignments to the students prior to the assignment. Teachers shall communicate homework assignments in at least one of the following ways: send a packet home, write assignment on the board, require students to record it in their Agenda, and/or make available through emails, or websites. The use of a variety of strategies is encouraged.
- Teacher will require that assignments and due dates are recorded in the Student Agenda.
- The teacher will (also) consider a student's Individualized Education Plan or 504 Plan in regards to homework.
- Teach techniques that can help students allocate their time wisely, meet their deadlines, and develop good personal study habits.
- Identify the access that students will have to materials for projects and other homework assignments – taking into account affordability, resource materials from the library media center, assistance and tutoring opportunities, and technology resources.
- Communicate with parents to inform them about homework expectations, policies, and procedures.
- Communicate the extent to which homework influences the student's overall grades. The homework will contribute 10% to the overall course grade.
- Communicate ways in which parents can best assist their children in doing homework independently.
- Communicate with parents at the earliest possible opportunity once the student has demonstrated consistent inability to complete homework. All communications will be documented on the monthly Parent Communication Log.

Parent Guidelines

- Provide a quiet space and basic materials for homework completion.
- Teach techniques that can help children allocate their time wisely, meet their deadlines, and develop good personal study habits.
- Monitor time management and productivity.
- Review school provided materials (for example Student Agenda, class handouts, and/or online resources).
- Communicate with teachers at the earliest possible opportunity once the child has demonstrated consistent inability to complete homework.
- Contact the grade level counselor, assistant principal and then the principal if a solution cannot be reached with a teacher regarding homework.

Student Guidelines

- Complete homework as assigned.
- Record homework in Student Agenda when assigned in class by the teacher.
- Seek clarification from teachers when unclear about homework.
- Use class time provided for completing classwork and/or starting homework.
- Seek assistance from teachers when demonstrating an inability to complete homework.

Scheduling Time and Parameters

Homework will typically be given Monday through Thursday. Occasionally, assignments may be given over the weekends or holidays. Students are encouraged to use the weekends to review materials, make up work, complete projects, and enjoy recreational reading. Assignments shall be designed so that the typical student can complete all homework, including time for studying and preparing for exams, in the average minutes shown.

5 th grade	50 minutes
6 th grade	60 minutes
7 th grade	70 minutes
8 th grade	80 minutes

Sharing of Concerns

Teachers and parents shall communicate with each other at the earliest possible opportunity once the student has demonstrated consistent inability to complete homework **and discuss possible solutions.**

Children who demonstrate quality effort and spend sufficient time attempting to complete homework should be stopped when a parent observes that continuing is detrimental to the child's well-being. In such cases, parents should note the amount of time spent on the assignment and sign the paper.

If a child is consistently unable to complete assigned work, the parent should contact the teacher first for support and accommodations as necessary. Teachers should also contact parents if a child consistently is unable to complete the assigned work.

Make up Work

If you anticipate your child being out sick for an extended period of time, not more than 5 days, then contact your child's teachers directly. Anything over 5 days should be directed to the Attendance Office.

Students who miss school work because of an excused absence shall be given the opportunity to complete all assignments and tests that can be reasonably provided. As determined by the teacher, the assignments and tests shall be reasonably equivalent to, but not necessarily identical to, the assignments and tests missed during the absence. Students shall receive full credit for work satisfactorily completed within a reasonable period of time.

Students who miss school work because of unexcused absences may be given the opportunity to make up missed work for full credit. Teachers shall assign such make up work as necessary to ensure academic progress, not as a punitive measure.

Students suspended from school shall be given assignments to complete. The teacher of any class from which a student is suspended may require the student to complete tests missed during the suspension.

