



Homework

Related Merici Policies

Assessment
Plagiarism

Rationale/Purpose

Homework is part of the curriculum at Merici College. The expectation is that all students will complete homework. The College recognises that at certain times homework can be a source of stress for families. If this is the situation, parents are asked to communicate this to the school so alternative arrangements can be made.

Definitions

Nil

Policy

Homework is valuable because it can help students:

- review and practise work covered in class
- get ready for future lessons
- learn to use resources, such as libraries, reference materials and Web sites to find information
- explore topics more fully than classroom time permits
- extend learning by applying skills to new situations
- integrate learning by applying many different skills to a single task, such as book reports or science projects
- practise, extend and consolidate understanding of concepts
- learn how to plan and organise time
- work independently
- establish habits of study and concentration which will be useful for the future

It can also:

- strengthen home-school links
- provide parents and caregivers with insights into what is being taught in the classroom and into the progress of the students
- reaffirm the role of parents and caregivers as partners in education
- challenge and extend gifted and talented students
- encourage self-discipline and responsibility (assignments provide some students with their first chance to manage time and to meet deadlines).

There is a strong correlation between homework, test results and grades. Evidence suggests that students who complete more homework obtain better results than students who do less homework. This is particularly significant in the later years of schooling.

Parents and Teachers working together

In addition to the benefits mentioned above homework can help create greater understanding between families and teachers and provide opportunities for increased communication.

Monitoring homework keeps families informed about what their student is learning and about the policies and programs of the teacher and the school.

Continuing communication between parents and teachers is very important in solving homework problems. This communication starts with the School Planner and this should be the first point of contact. If parents are concerned about homework they are asked to contact the student's class teacher and ask them how the student is coping in their subject. If they are still concerned they may contact the Tutor and ask them to check with teachers to see if there is a problem across the subject areas.

Procedures

Roles and Responsibilities

Teachers will assist students by:

- Giving guidance in establishing good study habits
- Planning and assigning homework adapted to the learning needs of students
- Reserving for classroom instruction all new or difficult work requiring teaching assistance
- Keeping homework relevant to students' needs and to the classroom program
- Contacting parents when students consistently do not complete homework (The Student Planner will be the first point of contact)

Parents can assist with homework by:

- Showing an active interest in the homework to be done
- Providing a suitable place for students to do their homework
- Helping students with time management to enable them to meet deadlines
- Limiting assistance with homework to guiding, aiding, reviewing, listening to reading and recitation and answering specific questions
- Encouraging students to engage in regular reading for pleasure
- Contacting the teacher if their child continually reports she has no homework
- Communicating with the teacher if their child is having difficulty completing homework
- Checking and signing the Student Planner weekly

Students are expected to:

- Complete assigned homework
- Seek help from the teacher when needed
- Be accountable for their actions regarding the completion of homework

Types of Homework

Homework may comprise

- Practice exercises

- let students apply new knowledge or review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills. Examples of such exercises are learning mathematical tables, practising spelling words, essay writing and reading for pleasure.
- Preparatory homework
 - allows students to gain background information on a topic to prepare them better for future lessons, for example, reading and collecting geometric shapes.
- Assignments
 - encourage students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively. Assignments might include writing a book-review, researching local news or select items from the Internet.

Suggested Amounts of Homework

Years 7 & 8	5 - 7.5 hours per week (1 – 1.5 hours per night over 5 nights)
Years 9 & 10	7.5 - 10 hours per week (1.5 – 2 hours per night over 5 nights)
Years 11 & 12	Minimum 12 hours per week. Seniors have at least two study lines and can be studying 6 hours per week at school.

These times are the minimum suggested for students. As students get older, the major focus will be on assessment tasks, further self-directed learning, revision and independent study. These skills are essential to students achieving success in their senior years.

Forms

Nil

References

CEO Policy on Homework

<http://www.ceocg.catholic.edu.au/parents/Lists/Policies/Attachments/56/Homework.pdf>

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Merici Contact Officer: Deputy Principal Learning
