



Homework Policy

I. PURPOSE OF POLICY

Providence Hall Charter School (PHCS) recognizes that homework is an important part of academic growth. Learning is a process rather than a daily experience that begins at 8:00am and stops at 3:00pm. Homework, properly planned, gives the student a feeling of continuous learning and shifts the emphasis from “receiving an education” to learning that is self--initiated. We believe that family and leisure activities are important and the amount and type of homework assigned should reflect this belief. We acknowledge individual student differences in ability, achievement levels, and needs, and that some students may take more or less than the recommended time to complete assignments. The purpose of this homework policy is to guide teachers, parents/guardians, and students in ensuring that homework is meaningful and supports the learning experience for all students. **In the unlikely event of a conflict between a course syllabus and this policy, the guidelines set forth in this policy will prevail.**

II. DEFINITION OF HOMEWORK

Homework is defined as 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. The development of good study habits should be an outgrowth of homework assignments.

III. FREQUENCY OF HOMEWORK

- A. Students should have homework on a consistent basis.
- B. Timely, successful completion of this work is a part of each student’s evaluation process. Homework is often begun in class.
- C. Assignments may be overnight or long term.
- D. It is important that students complete work independently so teachers can obtain an accurate assessment of understanding.
- E. Parents/guardians with questions regarding homework should contact individual teachers.
- F. It is the student’s responsibility to complete and turn in homework as assigned.

IV. PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK

The primary purposes associated with homework are as follows

- A. Give students a chance to review and practice what they have learned.
- B. Prepare students for the next day’s lesson.
- C. Reinforce and extend concepts introduced in class.
- D. Activate prior knowledge and assess student understanding.
- E. Establish study habits and self-reliance.
- F. Allow parents/guardians and teachers to monitor student progress.
- G. Allow for more in-depth exploration of topics than is possible during class time.
- H. Help students develop time management, study and organizational skills.
- I. Provide parents/guardians with insights into what is being taught in the classroom and the progress of their students.



V. HOMEWORK ASSISTANCE

- A. It is recommended that students who need assistance with homework speak and work directly with teachers, as they will be able to recommend strategies to improve success on homework.
- B. Students should speak directly with teachers regarding tutoring hours or to arrange additional assistance outside of class time.

VI. GUIDELINES FOR AMOUNT OF TIME ASSIGNED TO HOMEWORK

- A. The frequency, amount and quality of homework may vary according to the nature of the subject, the teacher's plan of instruction, and the amount of time spent on the assignment/activity during school. These will be weighed against the student's age and his/her ability to respond and benefit from homework.
- B. Because each year's work becomes progressively more difficult, it is assumed that students in the upper grades will devote more of their outside time to independent study.
- C. Time to complete assignments will vary with each student's study habits, academic skills, and selected course load.
- D. If a student is spending an inordinate amount of time on homework, the parent/guardian should contact their student's teachers.

VII. HOMEWORK RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The **student** should
 - 1. Know each course's homework.
 - 2. Be aware of the importance of homework.
 - 3. Ensure homework is completed to the best of his/her ability.
 - 4. Complete homework in the given time frame.
 - 5. Manage time on projects and studying in order to finish by completion date.
 - 6. Ask for assistance from teachers, classmates, and parents/guardians as needed.
- B. The **teacher** should
 - 1. Assign relevant, challenging, and meaningful homework.
 - 2. Give clear instructions and ensure that students understand expectations including how homework will be assessed.
 - 3. Offer assistance when needed.
 - 4. Provide verbal or written feedback promptly to students.
 - 5. Maintain homework records and communicate with parents/guardians if homework issues begin to negatively impact the grade.
 - 6. Discuss in PLC team meetings to ensure the amount of homework assigned is reasonable, taking into account competing home obligations, extracurricular activities, and homework assigned by other teachers.
- C. The **parent/guardian** should
 - 1. Understand that the amount of time spent on assignments/projects/studying will vary between students and that some assignments/projects/studying will require more time than others.
 - 2. Take an active interest in homework.
 - 3. Set a regular, uninterrupted study/homework time each day in a designated place.
 - 4. Check Skyward regularly to monitor and encourage student progress.
 - 5. Update phone numbers and email addresses in Skyward as needed.
 - 6. Communicate with teachers with concerns or questions.