

New Covenant School

Homework Philosophy and Guidelines

Philosophy

New Covenant School may assign homework to its students. Below are the primary reasons or causes for homework being assigned:

1. Students often need some amount of extra practice in specific, new concepts, skills, or facts. In certain subjects (i.e. math or languages), there is not enough time in a school day to do as much practice as may be needed for mastery. Therefore, after reasonable in-class time is spent on the material, the teacher may assign homework to allow for the necessary practice.
2. Repeated, short periods of practice or study of new information is often a better way to learn than one long period of study.
3. Since New Covenant School recognizes that parental involvement is critical to a child's education, homework can be used as an opportunity for parents to actively assist their child in his studies. This will also keep the parents informed as to the current topics of study in the class.
4. Homework may also result when students, who having been given adequate time to complete an assignment in class, did not use the time wisely.

Guidelines for Assigning Homework

Since homework, takes time at home, it is not to be assigned due to the teacher's poor planning or in place of an assignment which could have been completed in school. The necessity for doing homework will vary from grade to grade and even from student to student. The guide below should be regarded as maximum times, not as required minimum times, and then only **if** homework is assigned. Anytime homework is assigned, the student planners will be used for 3rd through 12th grades.

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>MAXIMUM APPROXIMATE TIME PER WEEK NIGHT*</u>
PK	NONE
K	10-15 MINUTES
1 st -2 nd	20-40 MINUTES
3 rd	30-45 MINUTES
4 th -5 th	45 MINUTES
6 th	45-60 MINUTES
7 th -8 th	60-90 MINUTES
9 th -12 th	90-120 MINUTES

*Equal to 10 minutes per grade level. Normally homework is not to be assigned over the weekend, except for literature. No homework is assigned over holidays and vacation periods.

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Guidelines for Lower and Upper School Teachers:

1. Make expectations for the homework assignment clear to the students. Explain the purpose of the assignment.
2. Homework assignments should not be complex or novel. Homework should focus on simple skills and material or on the integration of skills already possessed by the students.
3. Homework may not be assigned to punish students.
4. Students in grades 3rd through 12th are required to write down all assignments in their planners.
5. Assignments should be the same for all students and should not be individualized unless approved by the administration. (The same type of assignment should be required of all students although specific topics may vary.)
6. Teachers should give the students time to begin working on assignments during class. Homework then consists of work that was not completed during class. In most subjects, some of the best students should complete the assignment during the class time provided.
7. Teachers must collect homework, check it for completeness, and give intermittent instructional feedback. Teachers are not required to grade every homework assignment, but this should be the exception. Homework assignments should be used to locate problems in student progress and to individualize instruction.
8. Homework will not be regularly assigned over weekends, except for literature. Also, homework should not be assigned over Thanksgiving Break, Christmas vacation, Mid-Winter Break or Spring Break. However, some of our Junior and Senior level classes (such as pre-calculus, calculus and any AP courses) may require more frequent weekend homework because of the difficulty of the course and the volume of content that will be covered.
9. Upper School students will have no more than TWO tests per school day. Additionally, there will be no tests or projects due on Mondays and no more than one test on Thursdays.

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Specific Secondary Homework Guidelines by Grade:

Note: Students and parents need to understand that the following homework times are guidelines, usually geared towards 80% of the class.

6th Grade: 60 mins./night

	<u>Per Week</u>
Math	80 mins.
Literature	100 mins.
Science	40 mins.
History	40 mins.
Latin	40 mins.

7th Grade: 70 mins./night

	<u>Per Week</u>
Math	80 mins.
Literature	100 mins.
Logic	40 mins.
History	40 mins.
Latin	40 mins.

8th Grade: 80 mins./night

	<u>Per Week</u>
Math	100 mins.
Literature	125 mins.
Science	40 mins.
History	40 mins.
Latin	40 mins.

9th Grade: 90 mins./night

	<u>Per Week</u>
Math	100 mins.
Literature	120 mins.
Science	45 mins.
History	90 mins.
Spanish	55 mins.

10th Grade: 100 mins./night

	<u>Per Week</u>
Math	100 mins.
Literature	120 mins.
Science	80 mins.
History	90 mins.
Spanish	55 mins.

11th Grade: 110 mins./night

	<u>Per Week</u>
Math	110 mins.
Literature	120 mins.
Science	80 mins.
History	90 mins.
Spanish	70 mins.

12th Grade: 120 mins./night

	<u>Per Week</u>
Math	120 mins.
Literature	130 mins.
Science	90 mins.
History	90 mins.
Spanish	80 mins.

Bible: All Bible classes have 30 minutes per week to be distributed as the teacher desires.