

R 2330 HOMEWORK

Homework Guidelines – Middle School

Homework is an important part of each school day. It extends educational experiences beyond the classroom and reinforces learning by giving children an opportunity to practice without the pressure of time. Homework teaches students to be responsible, to organize time, to work independently, to practice good study skills and to develop self-discipline. Homework is one of the links between home and school that enables the parent to become more involved with his/her child's education. All MendhamTownshipMiddle School classroom teachers will post all homework, test, quiz, and project due dates located on the Middle School home page. Parents can check the status of their child's homework completion each Friday via the online "Live Grades."

Fifth and sixth graders are required to use the agenda books issued by the middle school at the beginning of the school year. Any seventh or eighth grade teacher may also require for students to utilize the agenda book. A stand alone 5th and 6th grade homework guideline, which was sent home in the summer mailing and will be followed by all grade five and six teachers.

Homework must be legible, neat, and accurate in form and content and must be completed on time. Late assignments may not be accepted for credit and may negatively impact a student's grade point average. Teachers' expectations are to be clearly expressed to the students.

In cases of an excused absence due to illness, the following procedures will be followed:

- One day or single classes: Students are expected to retrieve assignments online, and or contact friends for assignments, class notes, notices, and to be prepared for class activities the following day.
- Two or more days: Parents and students should retrieve homework assignments online from the middle school webpage. Missed assignments should be completed as soon as possible following the student's return to school. It is generally recommended that the number of days absent is the number of days a student requires to make up missed assignments.

Students who have missed classes or assignments because of attendance at school sponsored activities are responsible for all missed homework and class work.



Online Posting Guidelines

1. Teachers will reproduce their in-class 'homework board' online every day that school is in session. If there is no homework, the teacher will post "no homework" or "none" will be posted.
2. Homework, quizzes, and special projects will be placed online via links from the middle school home page located on the webpage under "Homework Assignments". Tests will be posted on the homework assignment calendars as soon as the teachers are aware of the dates. Unannounced assessments obviously will not be posted.
3. All homework/assignments that are due on the next school day will be posted by the teacher by no later than 3:30 pm. For example, assignments due on Tuesday will be posted no later than Monday afternoon at 3:30 pm. If it is not posted, a student will be given an extra day to complete the assignment if necessary.
4. Once an assignment is written on the homework board and the students leave the classroom at the end of the period, the teachers will not alter or adjust the assignment online in any way. If circumstances arise and this does occur, see number 6 below.
5. Students in 7th and 8th grades are encouraged, but not required, to utilize their agendas in class to write down homework assignments. However, internet outages, webpage outages, or lack of internet access will never suffice as an excuse for missed assignments. Students in 5th and 6th grades will still be required to maintain a paper agenda book.
6. If there is a conflict between what is written on the classroom homework board and what is posted online, students will be permitted an additional day to complete the assignment only if he/she successfully completes one of the assignments. It is not permissible for students to identify the conflict as the reason for not completing either assignment.
7. Teachers will not post documents that require students to have online access in order to successfully complete an assignment. If circumstances arise and this does occur, students without online access shall be granted an additional day to complete the assignment.



To access teachers' online postings:

1. Go to the middle school homepage
2. Under "Homework Assignments" click the appropriate grade level
3. Select class (and teacher if applicable) from the calendar tabs

Homework Guidelines – Elementary School

Homework is an extension of the school curriculum and should be viewed as an important school related activity.

1. It is important to set aside a specific time each evening for school assignments. A suitable place free from distractions, and a few inexpensive study aides such as a dictionary, atlas and almanac will help to assure assignments are completed adequately. The recommended times for such homework, including any short and long-term project activity, is:

Grade 1 -- 10-15 minutes	Grade 3 -- 30-45 minutes
Grade 2 -- 15-30 minutes	Grade 4 -- 45-60 minutes

2. On days when no specific homework is assigned, the provided time should be used for academic reinforcement (practicing math facts, reading, reviewing spelling words, journal writing, etc.).
3. Procedures for helping children with their homework will be discussed at Back to School Night by classroom educators. Should your child consistently struggle with homework and spend an inordinate amount of time completing school activities be sure to notify your child's classroom educator.
4. If a student is absent two or more days, homework may be requested by calling the school on the second day of absence and assignments will be available after 9:00 a.m. the following day in the main office.

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