



Beaumont School Homework Philosophy

Beaumont School recognizes meaningful, carefully planned homework supports student success and is an important part of the student's overall academic program. Beaumont School also recognizes:

- The potential impact of homework on family life
- The role homework may play in supporting students' self-confidence as a successful learner
- The benefit of a school-wide, balanced and reasonable approach to homework

Types of Homework

Preparation: Students engage with texts (reading/close reading) ahead of class time to prepare for the discussion and the formation of questions during class time.

Practice: Practice homework reviews and reinforces skills and concepts taught during instructional time.

Completion: Completion homework is work assigned during the school day that was not finished in a reasonable amount of time.

Enrichment: Enrichment homework extends the learning beyond curriculum expectations through activities like completing research related to student's areas of interest or undertaking an independent activity.

Projects: Project homework may be independent or group assignments larger in scope and span over several weeks. Projects should have a rubric that identifies criteria and outlines all parts of the project. Projects should avoid requiring extensive amounts of materials that may burden families financially.

Guiding Principles

In designing homework for students, teachers must apply the following guiding principles:

- Ensure homework is purposeful and meaningful
- Assign work that students can complete independently or with minimal assistance

- Consider and be sensitive to the impact of homework on family life and balance the benefits of homework with respect to family time's value.
- Encourage parent communication if there are obstacles or challenges at home that may prevent a student from being able to complete homework.
- Seek students' feedback about the structure of homework that best supports their learning and success.
- Strive to identify interesting and engaging learning tasks for homework assignments
- Cooperate and coordinate assignments with other faculty to identify best practices related to homework as a complement to learning and to avoid potential overload for the students at any one time.

Holidays Breaks

Beaumont School recognizes that students need breaks from a high school schedule's day-to-day academic and extracurricular demands. Therefore, stakeholders recommend and support that teachers refrain from assigning homework over holiday breaks (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Spring, Easter).

Quantity of Homework

The amount of homework assigned to students is to be differentiated according to grade level and course rigor (college prep, honors, AP, IB). The amount of time spent on homework will differ depending on students' individual pace and focus. Teachers are encouraged to assign a broad variety of assignments that will take varying amounts of time. While the length of homework varies, on average, it is recommended that students are spending on average between 90 minutes to 2 hours an evening completing assignments. If counting reading and studying, students may expect to spend between 2 to 3 hours an evening.

Roles and Responsibilities

Because student learning and success are shared responsibilities, teachers, parents/legal guardians, and students all have important roles and responsibilities.

Teachers

- Maximize instructional time during school hours
- Ensure homework is used for preparation, review, practice, enrichment, and completion of work (excluding certain research-based approaches like flipped learning)
- Prepare students to succeed with homework and support them to develop the skills they need to complete homework assignments.
- Implement appropriate and reasonable homework practices and continually review and assess those practices.
- Utilize appropriate strategies to communicate homework assignments to students, as well as strategies for completing assignments. For example, syllabi, PowerSchool, and Google Classroom.

Parents/Legal Guardians

- Homework provides parents and guardians with the opportunity to encourage and supervise learning, deepen their understanding of how their child is doing, model a commitment to education, and provide appropriate assistance.
- Help ensure that students have the appropriate work environment and equipment needed to complete assignments; also, perhaps something about limiting distractions (ie: cell phones, social media, etc.)
- A key parental/legal guardian's responsibility is to communicate with teachers if there are circumstances where their child is experiencing difficulty with homework or extenuating circumstances are making it difficult for a student to complete an assignment.

Students

- Students have a responsibility to do their best at completing their assignments by their assigned dates.
- Students are responsible for using multiple tools (assignment directions, classroom posting, Google Classroom calendar) to monitor due dates.
- Students are also encouraged to communicate with their teachers directly when they have questions or concerns regarding assignments.
- Students are encouraged to meet with their teachers after an absence from class to verify what work needs to be completed.
- Students are also encouraged to develop an understanding of how homework benefits their learning and provide feedback to their teachers, reflecting on the benefits and challenges of assignments.
- Students should be mindful of the time consumed by social media and other distractions as it pertains to their ability to complete assignments effectively and efficiently.

**This document is adapted from the Calgary Roman Catholic School District Number 1 Administrative Procedures Manual.*