

***Homework Plan  
Holly Springs High School  
2009-2010***

The purpose of homework is two-fold:

- To enrich, extend and prepare for school experiences through related home activities;
- To reinforce learning by providing practice and application;

Research indicates that when homework is turned in to the teacher, graded, and discussed with students, it can improve students' grades and understanding of their schoolwork.

- [www.nea.org/parents/homework.html](http://www.nea.org/parents/homework.html)

In order to support the WCPSS Board Policy #5510 pertaining to homework, the following homework plan has been implemented at Holly Springs High School:

1- Time Guidelines:

Homework will be assigned on a daily basis as needed. Students may be assigned projects with deadlines several weeks away. As a result, students may need to organize their assignments and work time to make sure they have completed their homework by the date due. Per Board Policy, research-based guidelines indicate that students may spend additional time on homework when studying for tests or exams or in Honors and Advanced Placement courses.

2- Involvement of Parents/Guardians:

- Send your child to school each day, well-rested, fed, and with a positive attitude;
- Set up a quiet, comfortable study area with good lighting and the supplies necessary for your child to have uninterrupted study time;
- See and check completed homework assignments when the child is failing to turn in his/her homework, when necessary;
- Offer your child the academic support necessary to succeed.

3- Informing Parents/Guardians:

- A copy of the homework plan will be posted on the school's website;
- Progress reports will be distributed at each four and a half week mark indicating homework performance;
- Parents may receive information on how to help their children with homework at parent conferences, progress reports, SPAN, Teacher Blackboard Accounts or regular parent communication through phone or email.

4- Techniques Taught to Help Students:

- All students will be assigned homework on a day by day basis as needed by teachers;
- All teachers will monitor their homework distribution and clearly communicate to students their expectations for homework;
- A teacher will introduce a concept or skill, thoroughly explain the concept or skill, and provide guided practice before making a related homework assignment;
- Assignments will be specific, within the student's ability and have clearly defined expectations, and questions pertaining to the completion of a homework assignment will be answered and clarified;
- Assignments will not require the use of books or materials which are not readily available in the home or accessible to the student;
- Assignments may be collected and feedback provided in a timely manner.

5- Resources Available to Students:

- Teachers have posted office hours once a week to assist students after school on an as-needed basis;
- Parents may communicate with the teacher to determine when extra help is offered as well as other ways that the student may need assistance with material studied;
- The media center will be open both before and after school and during lunch for students who need access to a computer;
- Activity buses run Tuesday and Thursday at 4:45 p.m. and 5:45 p.m. for students who need to stay after school for academic assistance (subject to change based on bus driver availability);
- Tutors are available through various honor societies in the school to be coordinated with the student's counselor or teacher.

6- Teacher Feedback:

- Teachers will make every effort to provide feedback to students in a timely fashion;
- Students will be held accountable for doing their homework;
- Homework will not be given as punishment or busy work;
- Homework grades will count as a portion of a student's grade as set by the department, not to exceed fifteen percent (15%) of a student's academic grade for a marking period.

7- Homework Effectiveness:

- To evaluate the effectiveness of homework, the teacher may apply the following questions:
  - Does the student possess the skills needed to complete the assignment?
  - Does the assignment extend and enrich class work?
  - Does the assignment meet a real need in the student's learning experience?
  - Does the student clearly understand the purpose of the assignment?
  - Can the assignment be completed within the suggested time limits?
  - Do some assignments provide opportunities for the development of initiative, creativity, and responsibility?

In order for this homework plan to be successful, all aspects of the school community, including administrators, parents, students, and teachers, must support all components of the plan. More importantly, all students must complete their homework as assigned to the best of their ability by the due date given in order to enhance their knowledge base.