

# Homework FAQ

## Introduction

In keeping with our student-centered approach to teaching and learning, it is important to recognize that assignments and homework are an important part of each individual's academic success.

Homework and assignments must therefore be done properly and handed in on time. This will help students solidify their understanding, think critically, problem solve, create, grow and respect deadlines.

## What is homework?

At St. George's, we define homework as a learning experience, assigned by a teacher for completion outside of class-time, which supports and enriches the learning and development of each student. It often includes:

- Preparing for upcoming classroom learning
- Reviewing class work in preparation for tests
- Practicing tasks and activities
- Completing tasks that were not finished in class
- Revising and correcting class work
- Doing project work.

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## **What does quality homework look like?**

When homework is assigned, it is generally directly related to what the student is learning in class. Quality homework tends to have the following characteristics:

- It is meaningful and relevant
- It is purposefully planned to avoid student overload
- It is clearly articulated by the teacher and clearly understood by the students
- It is differentiated, as appropriate, to meet student learning needs
- It is reviewed in a timely manner
- It is designed to be performed independently by the student, without the help of a teacher or parent overseeing the process
- It should be structured to ensure high completion rates.

## **What does the research say about homework?**

Lots of research has been conducted around the benefits of homework. Bennett, Finn and Cribb (1999) recommended a total of 10 minutes per night, per grade level (i.e.: 10 minutes for Grade 1 students, 90 minutes for a student in Grade 9).

Subsequent research (Copper, Robinson and Patall, 2006) however, suggests that time per se does not have a positive effect on student achievement, but rather, it is the quality of homework, with well-structured and quality homework delivering a much higher impact than large quantities of poorly-structured homework.

## **How much homework is enough?**

The amount of time a student spends on homework varies from student to student as well as age and grade level. Generally, students are expected to spend more time on homework as they progress into their senior years. Parents are encouraged to contact the teacher or advisor if they are concerned that either too little or too much time is being spent on homework.



## **What is the teacher's responsibility regarding homework?**

The teacher assigning homework does so with the following in mind:

- Clearly explain the homework and the timeframe in which it is due
- Model expectations regarding the quality of the homework
- Provide strategies for completion of the homework
- Check for understanding and completion in a timely manner
- Monitor incomplete assignments and homework, making home contact when necessary
- Ensure a healthy balance of homework
- Use and maintain the High School Academic calendars for homework, major assignments and tests

## **What is the student's responsibility regarding homework?**

Students are accountable for:

- Making sure they understand the teacher's instructions and ask for clarity if necessary
- Taking responsibility for homework by having the proper materials brought home from school
- Completing homework assignments on time and handing them in at the beginning of class or as otherwise instructed by the teacher
- Respecting the format specified by the teacher ( electronic or paper)
- Cooperating with teachers and parents
- In the case of High School students, completing any unfinished assignments and/or homework after school between 3:00 and 3:30 pm the day the work was due
- Advising teachers as soon as difficulties arise
- Showing pride in the quality of submitted work.



## **What is the parent's responsibility regarding homework?**

Homework is meant to support learning and is not intended to create tensions in the home between the parent and student. A parent's role includes:

- Letting teachers and/or advisors know of any family situation/event that might have an impact on the timeliness of homework
- Reviewing and practicing concepts with younger students
- Helping students with corrections and having them learn from their mistakes
- Apply learning to everyday situations
- Communicating any concerns with the teacher and/or advisor
- Consider enrolling the student in St. George's ES Study Hall and/or HS Homework Club to complement a student's homework efforts
- Remind the student to check out SOS LEARN for online tutorial support
- Encourage the student to see the teacher when difficulties arise.

## **What can parents do to support the homework process?**

- Show interest in what your child is learning. Be positive and encouraging without actually doing the work.
- Read regularly with your Elementary School student.
- Provide the right environment, remove distractions and try setting a regular time.
- Make sure students have the right supplies and resources before they sit down to work.
- Help with time management to ensure that homework is not put off until the last minute.