

YOUNG WOMEN'S PREPARATORY ACADEMY

HOMEWORK POLICY

PURPOSE OF HOME-LEARNING ASSIGNMENTS

- PREPARE information or materials for future learning activities (e.g. gather resources, read something for a class discussion, or rehearse for a presentation).
- PRACTICE new knowledge OR new skills (e.g. read for pleasure, practice physical skills, practice a musical instrument, use knowledge to complete a project, or practice basic literacy and math skills).
- ENRICH students' understanding of a topic and apply it in new ways (e.g. research local news, investigate a science experiment, write daily or weekly reflections in a journal, or apply skills to a class project).

EXPECTATIONS OF TEACHERS

- Parents are often asked by students for help: if there is a major change in approach (e.g., the "new math"), alert parents and provide them with information: this avoids parental frustration that can lead to student frustration and disinterest.
- Let parents know they are partners in the student's education and that the sooner a good pattern of study is established, the better.
- Be sensitive to family time when assigning homework, specifically during recess/holidays.
- Consider the students' home learning environment as it relates to homework assignments.
- Make instructions related to homework clear and provide, when necessary, a short period of supervised study or a period of questioning to ensure that the students understand the assignments.
- Check, review, evaluate, and/or grade student homework, according to the teacher's individual methods, and in keeping with a system that is clearly explained.

HOMEWORK WILL NOT BE USED FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

- To discipline or punish students.
- To introduce or practice skills the student does not understand.
- To assess a student's learning without reference to other work.

EXPECTATIONS OF ADMINISTRATION

Each school will develop their own tailored school wide homework plan in consultation with their EESAC. This will provide the opportunity to have input from teachers, parents, community and UTD in the spring for implementation at the beginning of the new school year. At the Opening of Schools meeting with faculty, the principals will meet with their faculty to initiate the Homework Awareness Campaign.

- Establish a school-wide approach to designing and assigning homework, including a process for home-school communications.
- Inform families about the schoolwide homework policy.
- Ensure that all teachers adhere to the school wide homework policy.

- Identify opportunities for students to receive homework assistance at school (after/before school, tutoring, etc.).
- Coordinate school-wide resources that support the successful completion of home-learning.
- Provide parents with District resources to help support their children with homework.
- Establish consideration for a student's home learning environment (computers, printers, etc.).
- Provide parents, particularly of elementary students, with study tips to help them help their children learn.

EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS

- Contact teacher early if the student begins to develop a pattern of late or incomplete work.
- Contact the teacher to clear up any misunderstandings, troubleshoot problems and be better informed about the students' learning progress.
- Ask teacher about parent workshops and/or online tutorials available to help them understand the skill being taught to better assist their child with home-learning assignments.