



FAY SCHOOL

Philosophy of Homework

Fay School believes that homework teaches responsibility, time management, and the value of practice and ongoing effort, in support of our mission to establish a solid foundation for a productive and fulfilling life. Throughout the three divisions of the school, assignments are thoughtfully created with students' differing ages and academic needs in mind. No matter the age, Fay students are expected to be diligent about doing their work, consistent with the ethos that everyone is invested in his or her own learning.

Parents are encouraged to help their children establish consistent, appropriate study routines. As a rule, parental involvement in homework completion should be minimal and limited to providing review or general support. Homework should not require excessive adult support in order for students to be successful. If a child is unable to complete an assignment independently, it is preferable for a discussion to occur between the student and teacher to support learning rather than having a parent assist the student in completing the work. No matter the age or assignment, we ask parents to help us foster autonomy and self-advocacy rather than dependence.

Students in Kindergarten occasionally have activities that include parent participation, while children in grade one are regularly given brief tasks to help them build independence, understand responsibility and accountability, and establish routines for study. Students in grades two through six have nightly assignments, including independent reading, that steadily increase in demand, complexity, and length. As students move through grade levels, they typically receive homework assignments that review concepts, procedures, and skills from class; offer opportunities for practice and reflection; preview new material; or ask students to extend their learning independently in preparation for coming lessons.

Our teachers regularly seek feedback from students to make sure homework is optimally challenging. Teachers use homework to measure student comprehension and determine the pace of a class. Faculty members have clear expectations for all students even as they recognize that some students may finish homework more quickly than others in the same class. Homework assignments foster an independent yet personal relationship between the student and teacher.

Whether for Primary, Lower, or Upper School students, we intend for homework to balance our core values of Academic Excellence and Earnest Effort with Wellness of Mind, Body, and Spirit. While teachers are mindful about scheduling assignments and assessments, inevitably workloads vary from night to night and week to week. In addition, there are periodic no-homework nights, and vacations are homework free. We encourage students to reflect, process, and learn independently through homework, but we also want them to play, have time for family, friends, and out-of-school commitments, and sleep. Homework at Fay is intended to emphasize understanding more than achievement, process more than performance.

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