

Homework Policy
Fort Worth Christian School
Effective August 2007

Overview

At Fort Worth Christian School we have determined that homework is not necessarily a fact of life that must be accepted without question, but rather an activity that must be regularly examined for its effectiveness.

We recognize that homework is an important factor in the development of responsible students. However, we also understand and appreciate the importance of time spent at home with family and in extracurricular activities, as well as the need to get adequate rest. To this end, homework generally will not be assigned on Wednesdays so families can attend mid-week church services. If a test is scheduled for a Thursday (as in the case of nine-week or semester exams), students may need to prepare the evening before.

Furthermore, a committee comprised of faculty and staff from the three schools will meet regularly to consider and coordinate all curricular and extracurricular activities for the subsequent two-to-three month period.

In our efforts to be better stewards of our time and assist students in the stewardship of their time, we commit to using class time as efficiently as possible to maximize learning and academic growth. Therefore, homework assignments will consist of test preparation, enrichment reading, and scheduled work on project completion. It will not consist of “busy” work, but rather solid academic review and practice which are meaningful and purposeful. Homework will not consist of new concepts that have not been taught in class.

Parents should provide a suitable place for homework to be completed, one without distractions, and should monitor their children’s work to assure that assignments are completed in a timely fashion. Parents are expected to support and encourage their children in the completion of homework, but to refrain from doing homework for the children. In addition, parents should direct any questions regarding homework assignments to their children’s teachers.

We pray that all FWC families will be blessed by the additional time for rich social experiences, outdoor recreation, Bible study, family time, community service, and creative play.

Elementary School

In addition to test review, Scripture memorization, math home links, and enrichment reading, students may have one well-paced learning project each semester (one project each grading period for grades four and five). Although not the standard, a small percentage of students who work at a slower pace or who do not use their time wisely in

class may have unfinished work to complete at home. On most evenings, the majority of students should complete homework in less than 45 minutes, including 10-30 minutes of reading depending on the grade level.

When students have ample time for family and extracurricular activities after school, we believe their school experience will be more enjoyable and productive. Each grading period, we will offer suggestions of activities that are intellectually engaging or character building. Students who are interested can do these each week independently or with family and friends outside of school time.

Middle School

Homework should average approximately 60 minutes per night on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and weekends. Of this time, students are encouraged to spend a minimum of 20 minutes in enrichment reading.

Study time will be limited to studying for no more than two tests per night. Quizzes and spelling tests are not included in the two-test limit. A quiz will generally not take more than 15 minutes of a class period and will not be counted as a major grade. The quiz will be based on the previous day's study.

Individual and group projects are part of the middle school curriculum; however, there is often class time designated to work on these projects. Nevertheless, some evening and weekend work will be necessary in many cases to complete the project.

High School

Homework enhances a high school student's preparation for college, improving a student's mastery of a subject. It should be meaningful and assigned with a specific learning objective in mind.

From long-term assignments requiring pacing and managing one's time to Pre-AP and Advanced Placement courses calling for more time and effort on the student's part, many factors affect homework on the high school level. Additionally, a student's potential involvement in several extracurricular activities necessitates excellent time-management skills. It is in the student's best interest for future success to develop such skills. If a student struggles with time-management issues, homework on any given night may require additional time. The student who keeps up with his/her work on a daily basis is the most successful. Faculty will supervise the students' progress on long-term projects.

On an average, homework can vary from just a few minutes to approximately 1 ½ - 2 hours per night depending on a student's level of ability and course selection. On the night before a major test or in preparation for the completion of a major project, a student may spend more time.

In most cases, students will not have more than two major tests or projects due on one day with the possible exception of an occasional three (excluding nine-week and semester exams). Dates of tests and project due dates for all classes will be monitored. Quizzes may be given on any day, but they should be short in duration and based on previously discussed material.

Homework will not be assigned to be completed exclusively during a holiday and due the first day back from a holiday.

Parents should also encourage their children to read for enjoyment because a great deal of student success in high school and at the university level is linked to reading.