

Malibu High School Homework & Makeup Work Plan

The teachers and administrators at Malibu High School believe that homework is important to student learning. The purpose of this homework plan is to guide teachers, parents and students in ensuring that homework is meaningful and supports the learning experience for all students.

Definition

Homework is any activity or assignment directed by the teacher to be performed outside the classroom that may include practicing skills learned in class, reading, studying, projects, or completion of assignments.

Rules for Homework

Homework is to be:

- Activities or assignments that students can complete independently.
- Connected to grade level or subject matter curriculum.
- Connected to class instruction.
- Engaging, purposeful and relevant.
- Consideration shall be given to quality over quantity.
- Carefully constructed as to be completed within a reasonable time allotment.
- Teachers and students should reasonably believe that every student has equal opportunity to complete homework successfully.

Teacher Guidelines

Teachers are to:

- Review, discuss and return, if collected, homework in a timely manner.
- Whenever possible, communicate and coordinate assignments so that students do not receive an overload of homework.
- Explain homework assignments to the students prior to the assignment. Teachers shall communicate homework assignments in at least one of the following ways: send a packet home, write assignment on the board, require students to record it, and/or make available through emails, websites or hotlines. The use of a variety of strategies is encouraged.
- Teach techniques that can help students allocate their time wisely, meet their deadlines, and develop good personal study habits.
- Identify the access that students will have to materials for projects and other homework assignments – taking into account affordability, resource materials from the library media center, assistance and tutoring opportunities, and technology resources.
- Communicate with parents to inform them about homework expectations, policies, and procedures.
- Communicate the extent to which homework influences the student's overall grades.
- Communicate ways in which parents can best assist their children in doing homework independently.
- Communicate with parents at the earliest possible opportunity once the student has demonstrated consistent inability to complete homework.

Parent Guidelines

Parents are to:

- Provide a quiet space and basic materials for homework completion.
- Teach techniques that can help children allocate their time wisely, meet their deadlines, and develop good personal study habits.
- Monitor time management and productivity.
- Communicate with teachers at the earliest possible opportunity once the child has demonstrated consistent inability to complete homework. If necessary, parents shall attempt to reach accommodation with their child's teachers regarding homework.
- Contact the principal or designee if cannot reach accommodation with a teacher regarding homework.

Student Guidelines

Students are to:

- Complete homework as assigned.
- Record homework when assigned in class by the teacher.
- Seek clarification from teachers when unclear about homework.
- Use class time provided for completing classwork and/or starting homework.
- Seek assistance from teachers when demonstrating an inability to complete homework.

Scheduling and Time Parameters

Middle School

Middle school homework may be given Monday through Thursday. Weekends and holidays are primarily reserved for family time. Students may elect to use the weekends to review materials, make up work, complete projects, and enjoy recreational reading. To optimize student learning and well-being, middle school homework assignments shall be designed so that the typical student can complete homework for all classes, including course-related reading, studying, working on special projects and preparing for exams, within the time allotments shown.

Grade 6	70 minutes daily
Grade 7	80 minutes daily
Grade 8	90 minutes daily

Students taking an extra class should expect to exceed the daily minutes.

Students taking accelerated courses such as geometry and language should expect to exceed the daily minutes.

Students shall be encouraged to allot time to read for pleasure. Reading for pleasure and instrument practice times are not included in the time parameters shown.

High School

High school homework may be given Monday through Thursday. Appropriate weekend and vacation homework may be given, but should not exceed the time allotments shown. Holiday and vacation time should be reserved for family and extracurricular activities.

To optimize student learning and well-being, high school homework assignments shall be designed so that the typical student can complete homework for all classes, including course-related reading, studying, working on special projects and preparing for exams, within the time allotments shown.

Grade 9	100 minutes daily
Grades 10 – 12	120 minutes daily for college preparation courses
Grades 10 – 12	180 minutes daily for honors and advanced placement courses

No course is to exceed 3 hours of homework per week.

Students shall be encouraged to allot time to read for pleasure. Reading for pleasure and instrument practice times are not included in the time parameters shown.

Assistance for Homework

It is recommended that students seeking assistance with homework speak and work directly with their teachers as they will be able to recommend strategies improving success on homework. Students should speak directly with teachers to determine which teachers host regular tutoring hours or to arrange individual tutoring sessions. In addition, students may get assistance on homework through the programs or strategies listed.

- Drop-In Tutoring Monday – Thursday 3:15 – 4:15 Library *TBD*
- After School Library Monday – Thursday 3:05 – 4:30 Library *TBD*
- Before School Library Monday – Friday 7:00 – 8:00 Library *TBD*
- The Club – Power Hour Monday – Friday 3:00 – 4:30 The Club

Homework Tips for Students

- Record homework in the same location each day. Use the school Assignment Book.
- Ask clarifying questions to be sure the expectations on your assignments are clear.
- Know, record and monitor due dates.
- Have a quiet space with basic materials for homework completion.
- Make homework part of your daily after school routine.
- Take a break when tired; then resume work.
- When you have questions about the homework, place a note next to it and ask the teacher the next day.
- Respect that appropriate rest and physical activity are important for one's overall well-being.

Sharing of Concerns

Teachers and parents shall communicate with each other at the earliest possible opportunity once the student has demonstrated consistent inability to complete homework.

Children who demonstrate quality effort and spend sufficient time attempting to complete homework should be stopped when a parent observes that continuing is detrimental to the child's well-being. In such cases, parents should note the amount of time spent on the assignment and sign the paper.

If a child is consistently unable to complete assigned work, the parent should contact the teacher first for support and accommodations as necessary. Teachers should also contact parents if a child consistently is unable to complete the assigned work. Teachers and parents may request a Student Success Team (SST) meeting to further investigate resolutions.

Makeup Work

Homework assignments may be requested by parents if the absence is anticipated to be three days or more. Parents should contact their child's counselor who will request homework from teachers. Homework will be placed in the Homework Box in the Attendance Office to be picked up by a parent or family member.

Students who miss school work because of an excused absence shall be given the opportunity to complete all assignments and tests that can be reasonably provided. As determined by the teacher, the assignments and tests shall be reasonably equivalent to, but not necessarily identical to, the assignments and tests missed during the absence. Students shall receive full credit for work satisfactorily completed within a reasonable period of time.

Students who miss school work because of unexcused absences may be given the opportunity to make up missed work for full or reduced credit. Teachers shall assign such make up work as necessary to ensure academic progress, not as a punitive measure.

Students suspended from school shall be given assignments to complete. The teacher of any class from which a student is suspended may require the student to complete tests missed during the suspension.

Review

SMMUSD will conduct an annual online survey as a means of monitoring and evaluating this homework plan.