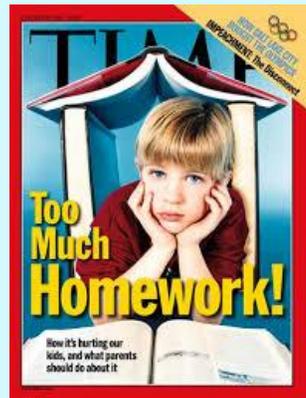
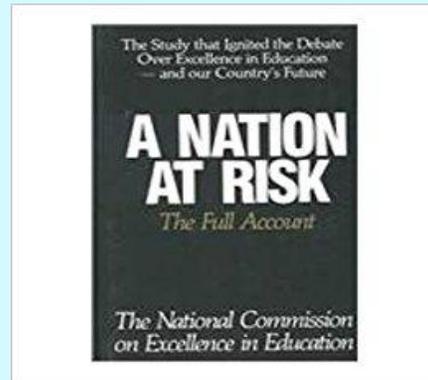


Homework

Why we give it. What it looks like. How to handle it.

The Homework Conundrum



- Several well-known studies are in favor of homework; several well-known studies are not in favor of homework. On the whole, the research is inconclusive. Here are a few reasons why:
- Many studies rely on self-reporting by students or parents as to how much time was spent on homework.
- Time spent on homework is measured as the cumulative time per week, not by day.
- Sample sizes of students may be as small as a few students or a few classrooms.
- Some studies measure homework assigned, not homework completed.
- Most studies lack equivalent control groups.

The Homework Conversation at MHS

- The “Homework Conversation” is one that teachers are currently engaged in, whether through PLC’s, informal discussions with their colleagues, or dialogues with their department chairs.
- Inquiry into Homework has resulted in new policies and new practices.
- Teachers may expressly discuss why they are giving this type of assignment: *tonight, you’ll practice this skill; I want to see if you are able to apply...*
- Student self-assessment and reflection as part of homework: *How long did it take you to read that section? What was most difficult about it? What are some strategies for getting past that trouble next time?*
- Mandatory and Optional Homework by some teachers.

Why **we** give homework: *It supports learning*

- Pre-learning (Acquisition)
- Checking for Understanding (Formative Assessment)
- Practice (Skill Assessment)
- Processing (Transfer)

Designing Quality Homework Tasks: *Or why homework can look different from day to day and why it sometimes isn't assigned at all*

Learning looks different from day to day. As such, homework tasks look different. Here are some types of learning homework can reinforce:

- Facts
- Concepts
- Principles
- Attitudes
- Skills

What Homework Looks Like in Our Classrooms

- World Language: The Process of Language Acquisition ([EdPuzzle](#))
- Science: Apply concepts through modeling, graph/data analysis or scenario-based inquiry questions
- Math: Concepts vs. Skill Practice and Retention Development
- Social Studies: Self-assessment
- English: Flipped Classroom (Skill, Application, Transfer)

To Grade or Not to Grade?

- Some homework is graded, some is not. Why?
- If the purpose of homework is to support learning, then it seems that it should provide an opportunity for students to try and fail without unduly penalizing them.
- **The true purpose of all assessment (including homework) is feedback, not a grade. However, some students appreciate these graded opportunities as they help to bolster student averages.**
- Homework is relevant to the learning as it occurs (late policies).



Homework: *What you can expect*

- Homework is being assigned with a specific purpose that provides data about student learning.
- Homework for students is also homework for teachers; without it, we aren't able to tweak our instruction to ensure that learning is happening.
- Homework for the next day may be briefly discussed, but will also be posted on Google Classroom by 3:05.
- Any homework that is posted after 3:05 is NOT for the next day.

Homework Recommendations: Where, When and How to do it.



- Always at a desk. *NEVER* on or in a bed.
- Generally better in a quiet, but more visible location (think kitchen table or study area rather than in your child's room).
- When? What time will work? Why?
- Distractions should be minimal (Social Media, Apps, Phones etc).
- Homework is independent unless otherwise specified.
- Be thoughtful about order. Start with the homework that is hardest for you first.

We aren't home with you...

- As parents, you “see” homework in action. This is something that we don't see.
- We want to repeat that homework should be done individually by your child unless expressly instructed otherwise.
- If you have concerns or questions about your child's homework, you should feel free to converse with both your child and the teacher.
- First, you can ask your child: *how does this tie into what you did in class yesterday or today?* You can also reach out to the **teacher directly** with any concerns that you may have.
- Homework should ***not*** be taking an excessive amount of time.