



RICHMOND SECONDARY SCHOOL HOMEWORK & HOMESTUDY GUIDELINES

May 2019

One of our primary goals at Richmond Secondary School is to develop self-regulating, capable people who are independent thinkers and learners. Studying and learning beyond the classroom are necessary and important parts of lifelong learning. The main purposes of homework are to reinforce and extend classroom learning, to promote organizational and goal setting skills and to encourage independent learning. Homework is a normal part of secondary and post-secondary education and can serve many helpful and positive purposes for students. **Homework** is teacher-initiated schoolwork such as completing class work, working on a longer-term project or preparing for an upcoming class or test in the near future. **Homestudy** is student-initiated and includes activities such as rewriting and reviewing class notes or reading and making notes from different text or online materials or practicing solving problems or reading ahead in a novel or textbook.

PURPOSES OF HOMEWORK:

Homework is most effective when it is connected and integral to what is happening in the classroom. Teachers play a critical role in helping students understand what they are learning, why they are learning it, how it is to be learned and their role in the learning process. This is true of class work as well as homework. Thus, when homework is assigned, its purpose should be clearly explained in relation to class work and the benefits for the student. Homework is mostly intended to be formative, with the intention of providing opportunities for students to practice, to clarify and deepen understandings. At RHS, homework will not be assigned to “keep students busy” nor as punishment.

Homework may serve different purposes, including:

- practice, application and extension of understandings, skills and competencies
- consolidation of knowledge, understandings and skills
- reading or reviewing materials for an upcoming class
- reviewing and preparing for an upcoming summative assessment
- collaborating with classmates
- student research and inquiry
- providing parents an opportunity to see what their teen is learning

CHALLENGES OF HOMEWORK:

Besides the many potentially positive aspects of homework, there can also be negative effects if homework is poorly designed or assigned without careful attention to the characteristics, needs and circumstances of individual students. Negative aspects of homework can include confusion, decreased confidence, a loss of interest, emotional stress, physical fatigue and decreased participation in extracurricular opportunities.

TIME RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is important that school work remain in reasonable balance with other extracurricular, family, volunteer and part-time work involvement as these are important for developing well-rounded and balanced young people. As individual work completion and learning rates vary, approximate time guidelines are difficult to establish and in senior grades, can vary significantly in different courses and programs. Occasional periods when students have more homework are not unusual during high school; however, the following are reasonable expectations on most days:

Grades 8 and 9: approximately 75 minutes per evening
Grade 10: approximately 90 minutes per evening
Grades 11 & 12: varies greatly depending on course load, can be 2 or more hours per evening.

While students may choose to work on longer term projects and assignments over weekends and breaks, homework should not interfere with the winter, spring or summer holidays.

The Richmond Secondary School Homework Guidelines have been developed following guidelines published in the Richmond School District Administrative Guidelines on Homework (Policy 513.3G).

https://staging.sd38.bc.ca/sites/default/files/2019-12/policy_513.3-g_homework.pdf

The RHS Homework Guidelines are also aligned with the RHS Assessment Guidelines:

<https://rhs.sd38.bc.ca/sites/rhs.sd38.bc.ca/files/attachments/Wed%2C%202020-07-22%2009%3A21/RHS%20Assessment%20Guidelines.pdf>

The RHS Homework Guidelines are also aligned with the RHS IB Assessment Policy:

<https://rhs.sd38.bc.ca/sites/rhs.sd38.bc.ca/files/attachments/Tue%2C%202017-04-11%2009%3A06/RHS%20IB%20Assessment%20Policy.pdf>