



YESHIVAH OF FLATBUSH ישיבת פלטבוש

HOULLOU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

בית הספר היסודי על שם משפחת כלו

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Homework Policy

The Yeshiva of Flatbush Lower School homework guidelines reflects the belief that we want to ensure academic success for all students. Some important homework practices that reflect this belief include:

- Designing quality homework tasks by identifying the purpose of the homework
- Focusing on checking and feedback - not grading
- Using completion strategies
- Communicating with parents

These ideas are elaborated below:

1) PURPOSES OF HOMEWORK

All homework assignments must fulfill one of the following four purposes:

- 1) **Pre-learning** (reading a book, reading an article, researching on the computer)
- 2) **Checking for understanding** (responding to journal questions, explaining strategies for solving math problems)
- 3) **Practice** (rote skills, spelling words, reading, support, and modifications for children who need extra reviewing of a skill)
- 4) **Processing** (reflecting, applying, and enriching)

The following best homework practices should be made clear to students by teachers and parents:

- Designate an appropriate location for homework completion.
- Make sure food and cell phones/devices and other distractions are removed while completing homework.
- Check your homework platform by grade level.
- Check that your child has completed the assigned homework.

2) TIME SPENT ON HOMEWORK

- The time allotment is meant to be the goal for the amount of homework assigned. On occasion, less homework may be assigned, but never more.
- If a student has not completed the assigned homework within the time limit allotted, he/she should stop working, and a note should be sent by the parent to the teacher.
- The time allotment includes assignments, test preparation, long-term project preparation, and reading practice.
- The time allotment is coordinated among teachers of all subjects at a given grade level, including specials and science, and may focus on one subject or another on a given night.
- Some assignments may be given over the course of several nights or an entire week, and the time per night indicated is an average of the total time. Students may choose to apportion this work over the course of the week in any way that they want.
- Projects should be completed in school.
- Homework is considered work to be completed at home, and class time should not be devoted to its completion, other than directions, examples, and explanations.

Grade 5: 40 minutes average, 4 nights a week

Grade 4: 30 minutes average, 4 nights a week

Grade 3: 30 minutes average, 4 nights a week

Grade 2: 20 minutes average, 4 nights a week

Grade 1: 20 minutes average, 4 nights a week

3) SCHOOL VACATIONS / WEEKEND HOMEWORK

Teachers should not assign homework right before a weekend or school vacation that is due immediately after the weekend or vacation, nor schedule tests for immediately after a weekend or vacation. School vacations and weekends are for learning, reading, reviewing, social/emotional development, strengthening of parent-child bonds, exercise, and unregimented play. Students should be encouraged to budget their time so as not to need to only study during weekends or vacations. Reading should be strongly encouraged every day, and some parents and students may choose to do additional skill practice and review over the weekend if this fits best with their child's and/or family's learning and work style.

4) PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN HOMEWORK

Parents are encouraged to...

- Ask their child about what she/he is studying in school.
- Ask their child to show them any homework assignments.
- Assist their child in organizing homework materials.
- Help their child formulate a plan for completing homework.
- Provide an appropriate space for their child to do homework.

Parents may if they wish...

- Help their child interpret assignment directions.
- Listen to their child read the required reading aloud.
- Give practice quizzes to their child to help prepare for tests.
- Help their child brainstorm ideas for papers or projects.
- Discuss or study with their child subject matter related to topics learned at school.
- Praise their child for completing homework.

Parents should not...

- Attempt to teach their child concepts or skills with which the child is unfamiliar.
- Complete assignments for their child or encourage homework helpers to do so.
- Allow their child to sacrifice sleep to complete homework, if the child has already put in the required time. If the parent instructs the child to stop the homework once the allotted time has elapsed, they should inform the teacher.

5) GRADING AND LATE HOMEWORK POLICIES

Grading Policies

Grades 1-5: Homework should be checked by the teacher and handed back in a timely manner with meaningful feedback. This practice enables homework to be a useful instructional and learning tool.

Late Homework:

In general, if homework is not completed, it should be done the following night.

Students who have an ongoing issue with homework completion will work together with faculty and parents to devise a plan to address the problem. Teachers may ask parents to sign off on homework assignments after they are completed.

Missed Homework

In the event of an absence, please arrange to have a classmate or sibling bring home your child's homework.

In the event that a student takes a vacation that is not during a regular school vacation, teachers are not expected to provide missed school work or homework in advance. Upon the student's return to school, parents are responsible for getting the missed work from their child's teachers and seeing to it that it is completed by the student. Parents should encourage their child to contact a classmate or pre-assigned "buddy" to help them find out what work has been missed.