

LA CAÑADA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

TK-12 HOMEWORK GUIDELINES

Philosophy

LCUSD believes that homework should be meaningful, developmentally appropriate, engaging, and relevant to classroom learning. With regard to homework, we value quality over quantity and recognize the distinction between load and rigor. At times, students may be given choice or options within homework to increase engagement and address various learning needs. Students should be able to complete homework independently and, as a result, further develop essential skills and gain deeper understanding of course content. On the night before a cumulative assessment or project is due, no other homework should be assigned in that subject area to allow for review, preparation, and project completion. To support student well-being, no homework will be assigned during school breaks, school-observed holidays, and standardized testing time for grades 3-8. Homework practices should be reviewed periodically by the teachers at each grade level or subject area to ensure alignment to academic standards and consistency of practices.

Communication

Homework expectations and the level of parental involvement should be communicated at the beginning of the school year. Instructions and due dates for homework assignments and projects should be clearly communicated to students and parents in advance to allow time for completion and opportunity for questions, clarification, and revisions. In elementary grades, parents should monitor the amount of time students spend on homework and communicate with classroom teachers if it exceeds the allotted time for the grade level or if the completion of homework requires significant adult support. In secondary grades, students should communicate with the classroom teachers if the amount of homework routinely surpasses the allotted time for the grade level, cannot be completed independently, and/or is not in alignment with the above stated philosophy.

Time Management

In 1st through 6th grades, the amount of time to complete nightly homework should be no more than ten minutes multiplied by the grade level. In middle school, 7th and 8th grade students should expect up to 80 minutes of homework per night. In high school courses, students should expect up to 30 minutes of homework for each college preparatory class, up to 45 minutes for each advanced or honors level class, and up to 60 minutes for each Advanced Placement class. These homework time allotments have been determined with the expectation that students work in a distraction-free and focused manner. Families should follow the pacing recommendations from teachers to avoid the need to spend many hours on completing assignments or preparing for assessments.