

# Valley Heights Jr-Sr High

## Homework Policy

### Purpose:

Homework is an important part of the educational process. Homework helps build responsibility, self-discipline, and life-long learning habits. It is the intention of the Valley Heights staff to assign homework that provides these opportunities for improvement and to reinforce learning objectives.

### Time:

Students should expect to spend time outside of class completing homework. The amount of time will vary from student to student depending upon study habits, academic skills, and the classes in which the student is enrolled. Generally, as a student progresses from 7<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, the amount of time spent on homework should increase. If a student feels that they are spending an excessive amount of time on homework, a conference with the teacher(s) is appropriate. Accelerated Reader is a requirement in English and other classes. Students are encouraged to pursue independent, leisure reading outside of class.

### Responsibilities of the Teacher:

- Assign relevant homework that reinforces learning objectives
- Give clear instructions and make sure students understand the purpose of the homework
- Provide feedback on homework in a timely manner
- Require that students enter assignments in their student planner
- Check each student's planner in their seminar at least twice a week
- Involve parents and provide a grade summary on a regular basis

### Responsibilities of Parents:

- Establish a regular study time each day
- Provide a quiet, well-lit study area
- Check the student's planner to monitor the student's organization
- To the extent possible, monitor the student's grades by checking them online and receive automatic email notifications
- Call or email the teacher to express concerns or ask questions

### Responsibilities of the Student:

- Write down assignments in your planner
- Set aside a regular time for studying at home
- Work on homework independently whenever possible so that it reflects your ability
- Produce quality work. Recognize there is a relationship between effort and achievement.
- Complete assignments according to the instructions given and on time.
- Check on your grades for each class on a regular basis

### Compliance and Interventions:

- Students are expected to complete all assignments. Zeros Aren't Permitted (ZAP)
- Additional time and support will be provided. (See *Ladder of Responsibility*)
  - Teacher assistance before or after school
  - Effective use of Seminar time
  - Voluntary use of the ET after-school program
  - ZAP program after school
  - Teacher conference with student
  - Teacher conference with parent

### Late Paper Policy:

Different subject areas have different types of assignments, time allowed to complete assignments, and frequency of assignments. The handling of late papers will be at the discretion of the classroom teacher with the following stipulations:

- Students will complete all assignments so proper feedback can be given and learning can be gauged. Students do not have an option of earning a zero.
- Late papers shall not receive less than 50% of the grade the paper would have received had it been handed in on time.