

HOMEWORK

Research shows, “Middle school students appear to benefit from smaller amounts (less than 1 hour per night) Cooper, Robinson, and Patall 2006). At Blue Ridge Intermediate Junior High School, we assign homework as a supplement to learning in the classroom. At home, a regularly scheduled time and space to complete homework supports your child’s learning in school. If your child is spending more than 1 hour on homework regularly, we would like to partner with you to reduce that time. This may be the result of incomplete classroom work and we will create a plan with you and your child to make sure they are able to complete the work in the classroom with the support of their teacher, in an attempt to reduce the workload at home.

Teachers will assign homework that supports learning in the classroom. Homework that is purposeful:

- Provides opportunities for extra practice with skills your child has already mastered in the classroom
- Provides an opportunity for your child to demonstrate their learning through independent work
- Enhances social emotional learning skills like: organization, planning, time management skills, and asking for help from a trusted adult

Absences:

Absences due to illness allow one day for each day of absence to turn in homework. Exceptions may be made for unusual circumstances, which warrant extension of this time. Please contact the teacher.

Incomplete work:

Incomplete assignments will be graded as is. Teachers will attempt to contact the parents of any students who consistently fail to complete homework in a timely manner. It is our goal that the teacher, parents and students will work in a collaborative manner to solve the problem.

Emergencies:

We also realize there may be times when family events and/or emergencies may make it difficult for a student to complete his/her homework on a given night. In an event that your child cannot complete their homework, we simply request you contact the teacher to make them aware of the situation. While the student will not be excused from doing the assignment, they will be allowed to turn it in the following day for full credit.

Missing work:

Homework (which is separate from classwork) that is missing will be marked as “missing” in Skyward/Qmlativ, and marked as a zero, so the grade will reflect that it is missing. However, the work can be submitted late for partial credit. Because homework is meant to support the mastery of skills in a particular unit of study, homework will be allowed to be turned in for partial credit, reduced by 10%, up until the day of the unit assessment. After the unit assessment, a missing assignment will be marked as a zero in the gradebook, and will no longer be able to be made up.

Depending on the nature of the homework, some assignments may not align with this policy. These exceptions must be approved by the building principal in advance. In this situation, teacher communication would let parents and students know of the exception.