

# Site Homework Plan Revision Process

PGUSD - January 12, 2017

# Process to Draft Homework Plans

**Goal: A coherent and progressive homework plan district wide Tk-12**

Consult Research

Review Current Board Policy, Regulations, and Exhibit

Teacher Survey

Parent Survey

Student Input

# The Pros and Cons to Homework

According to a 2006 meta-analysis by Duke University psychology professor Harris Cooper:

**Pro:** Positive correlation between homework and student achievement for older students in grades 7-12 as opposed to younger grades

**Con:** Physical and emotional fatigue, fuel negative attitudes about learning and limit leisure time for children

Pro: Improves study habits, attitudes toward school, self-discipline, inquisitiveness and independent problem skills

**Note:** Subsequent studies on the pros and cons of homework in K12 confirm and correlate the findings from Cooper's (2006) analysis.

# Finding a Balance

According to Vatterott, the author of *Rethinking Homework: Best Practices That Support Diverse Needs*, thinks there should be more emphasis on improving the quality of homework tasks, and she supports efforts to eliminate homework for younger kids.

**Source:** Is Homework Good for Kids? Here's What the Research Says. (n.d.). Retrieved January 09, 2017, from <http://time.com/4466390/homework-debate-research/>

“According to Harris Cooper, ‘There is a limit to how much kids can benefit from home study.’ He agrees with an oft-cited rule of thumb that students should do no more than 10 minutes a night per grade level — from about 10 minutes in first grade up to a maximum of about two hours in high school. Both the National Education Association and National Parent Teacher Association support that limit.”

**Source:** Retrieved January 09, 2017, from <http://www.apa.org/monitor/2016/03/homework.aspx>

# Current Board Regulation Guidelines for Site Homework Plans

The amount of time students shall be expected to spend on homework

When homework should be assigned (weekends, holidays)

Purpose of the homework

Parental involvement in assisting their child with homework

Techniques to develop good personal study habits and time management

Homework as it relates to grades

Coordination of tests and long-term assignments to avoid overload on students (middle and high school)

The access that students shall have to technology for homework completion.

The extent to which homework assignments shall emphasize independent research, reports, special reading and problem-solving activities

Forest Grove & Robert Down  
Elementary Schools

**GOAL: Alignment of Elementary Homework Policy**

Teacher Survey & Results

Parent Survey January 2017

Input from Leadership Team , Site Council, and Student Focus  
Groups

Joint FG RD Homework Task Force

# Pacific Grove Middle School

*\*Responsible completion is an increasingly important character trait as a student progresses through middle school and into high school*

*\*In addition to class instruction, each student will be expected to complete some schoolwork at home to achieve satisfactory grades*

*\*Some assignments are long range in nature and require planned study time for completion - Major assignments and tests within each grade level are planned to avoid common due dates*

*\*Middle school homework should average one to two hours per night, four to five nights per week - Parents are encouraged to establish a set routine at home so that students recognize the importance of school work and accomplish tasks assigned (PGMS Handbook)*

# Pacific Grove Middle School

## **What teachers say:**

The amount of homework assigned each night varies

On average, the total expected time a student will spend to complete all of their homework is 30-75 minutes per night (2.5 to 5.5 hours/week)

## **What students say:**

Students surveyed (informally) self-reported spending an average of 90 minutes on homework each night

## **What's next:**

February: Student focus group / parent survey / MS-HS joint parent night  
(February 9th)



# Pacific Grove High School

## Current state of homework as reported by parents in 2016

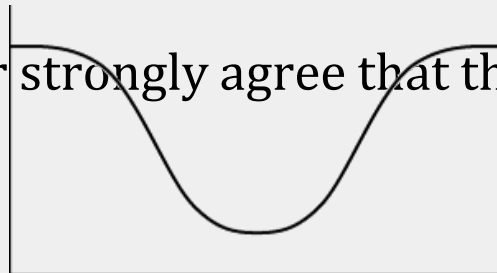
Average daily time spent on homework: 2hrs 15mins

67.7% of parents report their student had  $\leq 2$  hours of homework/night

71.4% of parents agree or strongly agree that this load is acceptable

Average daily time spent on activities other than homework: 2hrs 10mins

82% of parents agree or strongly agree that this time spent is acceptable



# Pacific Grove High School

## **Current state of homework as reported by faculty**

Discrepancy on amount of time depending on college prep vs. AP/Honors

Homework constitutes 10-20% of total grade

With a few exceptions, most assignments are given several days before the due date

Time management is now being taught in the Academic Academy in 9th grade: There was general consensus that most students did not spread out work over the advanced notice - usually procrastinate

Most faculty accept late homework with a reduction in grade

# Pacific Grove High School

## **Current state of homework as reported by faculty cont'd**

Faculty generally agreed that homework in honors/AP courses was more project/discussion-based requiring a higher level of fidelity than task-based homework - Time needed to complete these projects vary more widely than in regular college-prep classes.

Almost all homework requires access to the Internet

Math and world language have shifted to heavily rely on online work

Faculty strongly felt (no empirical evidence) that students often do not use class time and home time effectively to complete homework

# Pacific Grove High School

## Goal: Align and Coordinate Homework/Projects Among Departments

### Steps to achieve goal:

- Review and analyze data with faculty (Jan 9, 2017)
- Survey parents (Feb, 2017)
- Hold joint HS/MS parent meeting to gain further input (Feb 9, 2017)
- Create an aligned and coordinated homework practice at PGHS that:
  - reflects the reality of student study habits
  - reflects the differences between college prep & honors/AP courses
  - promotes practice, responsibility & concept reinforcement for college

# Next steps

Site meetings with stakeholders to formalize homework site plans:

Elementary, Middle and High School

Update site handbooks with revised/updated homework plans for board approval in the spring

Board recommendations for guidance/direction?