

# **Autrey Mill Middle School Homework Policy**

## **Introduction**

The Autrey Mill Middle School community recognizes that homework is an important part of academic growth in middle school. It has the potential to affirm the learning partnership among students, teachers, and parents/guardians. We believe that family and leisure activities are important and the amount and type of homework assigned should reflect that. We acknowledge individual student differences in ability, achievement levels, and needs, and that some students may take more or less than the recommended time to complete assignments.

Students will be given homework in most classes, including Connections, on a regular basis. Timely, successful completion of this work is a part of each student's evaluation process. Homework is often begun in class. Assignments may be overnight or long term. It is important that students complete the work independently so teachers can obtain an accurate assessment of understanding. Parents with questions regarding homework should contact individual teachers.

The teams of interdisciplinary teachers meet on a regular basis to ensure that the amount of homework assigned is reasonable. It is the student's responsibility to complete and turn in homework as assigned. An agenda will be provided to all students at the beginning of the school year, and students are expected to write down their homework daily in their agendas. School agendas may be replaced for a cost of \$10.00. Parents are encouraged to sign the agendas weekly.

Fulton County Schools have established a **HOMEWORK HOTLINE** to assist students who have questions regarding homework assignments. Students may obtain help by calling 404-843-7700 Monday through Thursday from 5:00-8:00 p.m. The Hotline is staffed by Fulton County teachers who have access to textbooks used in Fulton County.

## **Definition**

Homework is defined as at-home assignments, studying, and/or projects performed by the student.

## **Purpose**

Assignments have the following purposes:

- To prepare for, reinforce, and extend concepts introduced in class
- To activate prior knowledge and assess student understanding
- To establish study habits and self-reliance
- To allow parents/guardians and teachers to monitor student progress

## **Time**

Autrey Mill recognizes the Department of Education standard homework guidelines and recommendations from other experts in education. (Please refer to <http://www.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/homework/part4.html> or <http://www.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/homework/part5.html> and *Classroom Instruction That*

*Works: Research-Based Strategies for Increasing Student Achievement* by Robert J. Marzano, Debra J. Pickering, and Jane E. Pollock for further information.) Students' total daily homework should not exceed the guideline of 60 - 90 minutes, assuming students have completed daily in-class assignments and make-up work. This includes all classes with the exception of Band, Chorus, and Orchestra. These will require additional time.

## **Late Work Policy**

Students are expected to turn in homework on time. Students who do not turn in homework will not receive credit. Students who turn in late assignments will receive a consequence based upon individual teacher discretion or grade level policy. These consequences may include:

- Partial credit
- Missed reward activity
- Communications with parents
- Working lunch

Students who miss homework because of an absence will receive the opportunity to make up missed work. Upon returning to school following an absence, it is a student's responsibility to contact the teacher or teachers to request make-up work. The contact should be made on the day the student returns to school unless the teacher allows a longer time. (Fulton County Policy JBD – Attendances and Absences)

Students are given one calendar day for each day absent plus one day to turn in the work. Make-up work submitted late will not be counted.

## **Responsibilities**

As with all schoolwork, but especially with homework, the interaction among the teacher-student-parent/guardian is essential. The final responsibility for homework rests with the student.

### **The student should**

- Know the school's homework and agenda use policies.
- Be aware of the importance of homework.
- Ensure homework is completed to the best of his/her ability.
- Complete homework in the given time frame.
- Manage time on projects and studying in order to maintain the guideline of 60 - 90 total minutes of homework.
- Ask for assistance from teachers, classmates (study buddies), and parents/guardians as needed.

### **The teacher/staff should**

- Assign relevant, challenging, and meaningful homework.
- Give clear instructions and ensure that students understand expectations including how homework will be assessed.
- Offer assistance when needed.
- Provide verbal or written feedback promptly to students.

- Maintain homework records and communicate with parents/guardians if homework issues begin to negatively impact the grade.
- Meet regularly with interdisciplinary teachers to ensure that the amount of homework assigned is reasonable, taking into account competing home obligations, extracurricular activities, and homework assigned by other teachers.

### **The parent/guardian should**

- Understand that 60 - 90 total minutes of homework is only a guideline and that there may be occasions when homework takes additional time. Some students routinely require more time.
- Take an active interest in homework.
- Set a regular, uninterrupted study/homework time each day in a dedicated place.
- Communicate regularly with teachers to monitor and encourage student progress.
- Update phone numbers and email addresses as needed.
- Stay well informed via Parent Connect, Autrey Mill's website (<http://www.fultonschools.org/school/autreymill/>) and teachers' websites.

### **Parent Connect**

Parent Connect is an on-line grade program that allows parents to keep track of grades and attendance. Through Parent Connect, you may access pertinent information about your child's attendance, grades, homework assignments, discipline, and much more. All you need to gain access to the information is internet access, a browser, and an e-mail address.

The Parent CONNECTxp web address is <http://autreymillpc.fultonschools.org/>. You may also go to the school's web page at <http://www.fultonschools.org/school/autreymill/> and link to Parent Connect.

First-time users of Parent Connect need to scroll down, click "Register", and complete the registration form (do not use periods, commas, or any other punctuation). At the bottom of the form, click "Submit".

The next school day after registering, stop by the school's main office to pick up your ID and password.

***Assignment dates entered into Parent Connect are subject to change in order to meet instructional needs. The student agenda is the primary source of information for parents.***

Please check your child's agenda and/or teachers' websites for the most up-to-date information concerning assignment due dates, test dates, etc.

Teachers have ten school days to enter major grades. Due to the updating procedure for Parent Connect, grades may not appear for 24 hours after they are entered.