

## HOMWORK POLICY

*approved June 25, 2025*

### Introduction

At Dallas International School (DIS), homework is an essential component of the educational process, designed to reinforce learning, promote the development of independent study skills, and foster self-discipline and organizational habits. Homework is intended to complement classroom instruction by providing opportunities for students to practice, review, and apply what they have learned in class. It also serves as a bridge between school and home, allowing families to engage with and support their children's education.

Our homework philosophy is rooted in the belief that homework should be purposeful, meaningful, and manageable, contributing to a balanced academic experience that supports the overall well-being of our students. We strive to assign homework that aligns with our commitment to academic ambition while considering students' needs for rest, extracurricular activities, and family time.

### Duration and Amount

The amount of homework assigned at DIS is calibrated to reflect the developmental stages and academic demands of students at different grade levels. Teachers aim to assign quality homework that reinforces learning without overburdening students.

- **Early Childhood (EC2-KG):** No formal homework is assigned. Focus is on in-class learning and play-based activities.
- **Elementary School (1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>):** Students should expect to spend 15-30 minutes per day on homework. Assignments will focus primarily on reading, memorization of lessons, and other engaging tasks that enhance learning.
- **Middle School (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>):** Students should expect to spend 30-60 minutes per day on homework. Teachers will ensure that more time-consuming assignments, such as essays or projects, are spread out over several days with adequate notice.
- **High School (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>):** Students should expect to spend 60-120 minutes per day on homework. Major assignments requiring significant time and effort, such as research papers or science projects, will be assigned with sufficient time to complete them.

Teachers will work collaboratively to ensure that the total amount of homework is reasonable and balanced across subjects.

### Holidays and Breaks

At DIS, we recognize the importance of rest and rejuvenation during holidays and breaks. To support the well-being of our students, no assessments will be due or administered during the first two days following a break of one week or more.

## Guidelines

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### For Teachers

- Homework should be purposeful, engaging, and directly related to classroom learning.
- Differentiate assignments and provide accommodations for students with an Accommodation Plan.
- Ensure that students understand the homework before leaving class.
- Record all homework assignments on the designated platform ahead of time. Assignments must be posted before 4:30 pm for Secondary School.
- Take into account the overall workload of students, coordinating with colleagues to avoid overlapping deadlines.
- Take into consideration students' social well-being and their balance of school and family life.
- Provide timely feedback on homework to support student learning and growth.
- Communicate with parents when students fall behind on homework assignments and follow-up as necessary.

### For Students

- Check the designated platform regularly for homework assignments.
- Ensure that you understand the assignment expectations before leaving class. Ask questions if you need clarification.
- Bring home the materials needed to complete homework.
- Submit homework by the assigned deadlines and seek help if you encounter difficulties.
- For Secondary School students, be proactive if you anticipate being absent and communicate with your teachers through MyDIS.

### For Parents and Guardians

- Monitor your child's homework completion using the designated platform.
- Encourage your child to spend an appropriate amount of time on homework and to take breaks as needed.
- Provide a quiet, distraction-free environment for homework.
- Communicate with teachers if you have any concerns or if your child is struggling with homework assignments.

## Assessment and Grading

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In general, homework at DIS is not graded as its primary purpose is to reinforce learning and practice skills. However, homework may be graded in certain circumstances, particularly when it is essential for assessing a student's understanding and progress.

- Graded homework assignments will typically account for up to 20% of the final attainment score. Homework weight for International Baccalaureate courses may be aligned with the weight of the IB's internal assessment.
- The ratio of graded homework to in-class assessments should not exceed 1:1, ensuring that the majority of a student's grade is based on assessments completed under teacher supervision.
- Homework should reflect the student's understanding and skills. The use of external resources, such as parents, tutors, or AI, is allowed, but the final work must comply with the Academic Integrity Policy.

## Homework Deadlines

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Homework deadlines are important for maintaining academic discipline and ensuring that students manage their time effectively.

- Deadlines will be clearly communicated to students in advance.
- Teachers will coordinate with colleagues to avoid scheduling multiple major deadlines on the same day.
- Students are encouraged to plan ahead and manage their time effectively.
- Extensions may be granted based on individual circumstances and will be at the discretion of the teacher.

## Missing Assignments

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DIS follows a No Zero Policy for missing work. A zero is not given for missing assignments as this does not reflect the student's academic level but rather an issue of behavior.

- Teachers are responsible for communicating with the student and their parents to resolve missing assignments.
- If an assignment is not submitted on time:
  - in Primary School, the teacher will contact the student's parents/guardians via email.
  - in Secondary School, the teacher will mark it as **Missing** in MyDIS, triggering an automatic email notification to the student's parents/guardians.
- Students who miss an assignment are required to complete it during after-school study hall within three days of the due date. After this date, the assignment is considered not submitted, which may impact a student's ability to pass the course for the semester. High School students cannot receive academic credits on their transcripts for any failed or incomplete courses.
- If the issue persists, the teacher will notify the Director of Student Affairs. For Secondary students, the teacher must also inform the student's Grade Level Coordinator who will take further action in consultation with the Head of Secondary, Director of College Counselling, and/or the appropriate Dean of Students.

## Connection with Other Policies

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### Assessment Policy

The Homework Policy is closely linked to the Assessment Policy. Homework is intended to support students in mastering the skills and content assessed in formal evaluations. Teachers should ensure that homework aligns with the learning objectives and assessment criteria outlined in the Assessment Policy.

### Academic Integrity Policy

Homework must be completed with honesty and integrity. The use of external resources is permitted, but students must ensure that their work adheres to the guidelines set forth in the Academic Integrity Policy. Any violation of these guidelines will be treated seriously, with consequences as outlined in the Academic Integrity Policy.



## Policy Review and Publication

This policy is reviewed regularly through collaborative planning, and final versions for publication are sent to and formally approved by the DIS Executive Leadership Team. The latest version of this policy is made available to the DIS community through the MyDIS platform.