Victor Intermediate School Homework Philosophy

Adopted Spring, 2017

Homework

During the 2016-2017 school year, the Victor Intermediate School Building Council and faculty leaders spent considerable time reviewing research around the topic of homework and the impact it has on student learning. In addition to reviewing research and obtaining feedback from teachers and families, we also analyzed our current homework practices and the effect homework was having upon learning. At the same time, we felt it important to understand the impact homework was having upon the increasingly busy daily lives of our VIS student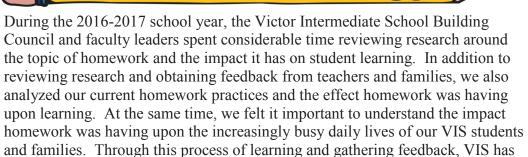s and families. Through this process of learning and gathering feedback, VIS has taken some steps to ensure that our use of homework is impactful and serves as a support for students rather than a frustration. To that end, the VIS Building Council and faculty are pleased to share with you the following:

Core Beliefs:

- We value the importance of independent reading. There is nothing more critical than inspiring and encouraging children to develop strong habits of learning through engaging texts both inside and outside of school.
- We recognize that homework impacts children and families differently. As such, it can be a cause of significant stress, anxiety, or frustration.
- We believe homework can be of value as long as it is aligned to best practices in instruction. Some of these include extension of learning, independent practice, fostering creativity, finding relevance, and engaging in self-assessment.
- We value the attempt, not just the results. Homework is a form of formative assessment for the teacher as well as the student and it should positively impact actions or interventions moving forward.

What VIS Parents Can Expect:

- Homework will be constructive, not punitive.
- Where possible, teachers will work to assign homework on a weekly basis rather than nightly.
- When necessary, homework may be differentiated based on individual student needs.

Our Hope for VIS Families:

- We hope families take time to eat, talk, and play together as often as possible in the evenings.
- We hope families encourage and model reading habits and discuss text with their children regularly. Remember, students are never too old for a read-aloud!
- We hope parents will feel comfortable letting teachers know if homework is creating anxiety or struggle for their child. If it reaches this point, it is completely acceptable to stop. Providing this information to the teacher is far more valuable than having the child complete the task with significant amounts of support. Teachers would then focus upon re-teaching or differentiating tasks for students moving forward.