



“Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good. Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more.” Hebrews 10:24-25

## Aquinas School Homework Policy

Aquinas scholars are assigned nightly homework and most of our students do an excellent job completing nightly assignments. For those who need extra support a research based plan is in place to support student homework success. We are blessed to partner with amazing parents in doing all we can to ensure our students' success. Working with you to guide students toward success in life is our very foundation and our faith. It encompasses several of our core values; love, pray, collaborate, grow and try. We are confident in our students' abilities and believe every single student can and will achieve their goals. We thank you in advance for your support as we work to ensure EVERY student succeeds!

Homework is an academic issue in that it helps cement skills worked on in school, but the benefits of homework do not end there. Homework also instills a sense of responsibility, prioritization and time management. Having all homework, supplies, planners, etc., at school in the morning is essential. In our effort to teach our students responsibility we cannot excuse homework/materials when a parent brings them to school later.

Below is a list of tiered support we provide students to instill organizational skills and prepare all students for homework completion and life-long success:

- Kindergarteners, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders utilize parent communication folders.
- Every child in grades 3-8 utilizes a student planner.
- All homework in grades 3-8 is posted in the classroom.
- Students are reminded daily concerning what materials need to go home.
- Elementary teachers have either a nightly or weekly sign off for parents to acknowledge they are aware of their child's homework.
- When an assignment is missed, the parent is notified via email.
- The teachers have track homework completion using individual and class graphs.

We acknowledge that once in a while a mistake is made and a student may either complete the wrong page of an assignment, leave their materials at school, forget their homework on the kitchen table, etc. If your child does not have their homework, it is their responsibility to have it the next day. Please know that if your child is struggling with a concept, you are welcome to email the teacher and either send your child to school a bit early the next day (any time after 7am) or have them approach the teacher as soon as they arrive at school for extra help. The teachers will not count this as a missed assignment if they have heard from you and your child seeks assistance. Keeping the line of communication open between yourself and your child's teacher is always best.

If a student misses a third assignment in a quarter, you will receive a call from your child's teacher and the following interventions will take place:

- The student will miss recess to complete work.

- The student will be assigned a “homework buddy” to look at their planner every afternoon and ensure all of the materials they need go home in their book bag.
- If the teacher does not already require daily parent signatures, this will be implemented.
- At this level we recommend you consider sending your child to Homework Club regularly. It is a very successful program for many of our students. The club is a minimal cost (\$5) and can help avoid your child missing further assignments and being moved to tier three.

If a student misses 2 assignments once they are in the second tier, we want to ensure we are doing absolutely everything we can to support them. They are either truly struggling with the material or need help in organizational skills. We believe this pattern of missed assignments indicates a student needs intensive support. The following interventions will take place:

- The principal will call you to discuss your child’s needs.
- Upon the next missing assignment your child will call you to inform you that they will be staying after school for extra help, whether it’s academic or organizational. Depending how much work needs to be completed, this could range from 30 minutes to one hour.

Yes, our faculty has reviewed the research and agreed to stay after school to help any student who is missing this volume of work. We realize this last intervention is potentially very inconvenient to families. We understand for those students who take the bus home, it may be challenging to pick your child up from school. At the same time, once we have gone through all of the other interventions we feel your child must need serious and immediate help to complete their work or organize themselves. If this would be an enormous inconvenience for you, this situation can be avoided with your intense oversight and communication with us should your child enter the second tier. Please do not wait for a call from me that your child is in tier 3 before intervening.

I hope you appreciate how dedicated our staff is to your students and realize we take our responsibility to serve your child very seriously. Your support is vital in allowing us to do absolutely everything we can to serve them. If you have any questions or suggestions you are always welcome to call me. We truly love each and every one of our students and look forward to working with you to do all we can to ensure their future success!

God bless you,

Mrs. Gutierrez