K–8 School-Wide Homework Policy

Mission Alignment

The mission of Island City Academy ("Academy") is to improve pupil achievement through a shared vision between talented teachers, parents, and students whose primary goal is academic excellence coupled with moral standards and expectations. We believe this is achieved by providing a strong curriculum in the core subjects of mathematics, science, history, geography, language arts, and fine arts, along with a moral education supported through standards of conduct and curriculum.

This homework policy directly supports that mission by reinforcing academic skills, building responsibility, and strengthening the partnership between school and home.

Purpose

At Island City Academy, we are committed to fostering a positive learning environment that supports both academic growth and personal responsibility for all students. Homework is a key part of this process.

Homework provides students with meaningful opportunities to practice and apply the skills they are learning in the classroom. Much like practicing a sport or musical instrument, consistent effort outside of school helps students build confidence, improve performance, and develop discipline over time.

Philosophy

- Homework is **practice that supports academic excellence**
- Consistent effort leads to **growth, confidence, and mastery**
- Responsibility and accountability are developed through routine
- A strong partnership between **teachers, parents, and students** is essential

General Expectations

Homework will be assigned regularly and aligned with classroom instruction in the Academy's core subject areas. Assignments are intended to be purposeful, appropriate for grade level, and achievable within a reasonable amount of time.

Student Responsibilities

1. Record all assignments in their daily planner
2. Complete homework to the best of their ability
3. Bring completed work to school on time
4. Take ownership of their learning through consistent effort

Teacher Responsibilities

- Clearly communicate assignments and expectations
- Ensure homework aligns with instruction and supports skill development
- Provide feedback when appropriate
- Guide students in developing strong work habits

Daily Planner & Parent Communication (Required) 1st – 8th grade

A key component of this policy is consistent communication between school and home through the use of a **daily planner**.

Student Responsibilities

- Accurately record homework assignments each day
- Use the planner as a checklist for completion
- Bring the planner to and from school daily

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

- Review the planner each evening
- Support and monitor homework completion
- **Sign the planner daily** to confirm:
    - Homework has been reviewed
    - Assignments and communication have been acknowledged

School Commitment

- Staff will monitor planner usage and support consistency
- The planner will serve as a reliable communication tool between school and home

Homework Support Opportunity

Island City Academy is committed to supporting all students in completing their homework successfully.

- **Homework Help will be available up to four (4) days per week**
- This time is designed to provide:
    - Additional support and guidance
    - A structured environment for completing assignments
    - Assistance from school staff as needed
- Students are encouraged to attend Homework Help when they:
- Need extra support understanding assignments
- Require additional time to complete work
- Would benefit from a quiet, structured workspace

Grade-Level Homework Guidelines

Kindergarten – Grade 3

Focus: Building foundational skills and routines

- Students will complete a **half sheet of homework nightly**
- Students are required to **practice reading each evening**
- Any **classwork not completed during independent work time must be finished at home**
- Emphasis is placed on **routine, consistency, and strong parent involvement**

Grade 4

Focus: Reinforcing daily instruction and skill development

- Students will:
  - Complete **math work from the daily lesson**
  - Complete **one homework sheet nightly**
  - Finish **any work not completed during the school day**
- Emphasis on responsibility, accuracy, and completion of daily work

Grades 5–8

Focus: Responsibility, independence, and preparation for high school

- Homework will primarily consist of:
  - **Any work not completed during the school day**, which is **due the next day unless otherwise noted in the planner**
- Students are expected to:
  - Manage their time effectively
  - Track assignments carefully in their planner
  - Take full responsibility for completing and submitting work on time

Support & Partnership

We recognize that each student learns differently and that family schedules may vary. Open communication between teachers and families is essential to ensure homework remains productive and meaningful.

Families are encouraged to:

- Communicate with teachers regarding questions or concerns
- Partner with the school to support student success
- Encourage consistent routines at home

Commitment to Student Growth

At Island City Academy, we believe that homework is more than completing assignments—it is an opportunity to strengthen academic skills, build responsibility, and support the development of well-rounded students.

By working together—teachers, parents, and students—we can uphold our shared mission and help every child achieve academic excellence.