



GIS Homework Policy

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GIS Homework Policy

1. Mission Statement

GIS's mission is to provide authentic international education to foster an enthusiasm to explore and the security to pursue individual goals. As a growth-oriented school, we aim to cultivate highly skilled and responsible global citizens rooted in our local community.

2. Homework Philosophy

At GIS, we believe homework is an integral part of the partnership between the school and parents. It develops the student's independent learning in a non-school environment, promotes self-discipline, responsibility and organisational skills. It encourages students to plan and prioritise so that they are able to achieve their best.

(a) Parents can positively influence their children's attitudes to learning. They can actively support their child in many ways, including:

- advice and encouragement,
- jointly planning to develop a workable home schedule which accommodates family activities,
- providing a suitable place for homework to be done,
- consulting the student diary or communication book, or Managebac (MYP)
- checking that homework is done ,
- informing the child's class teacher or subject teacher if, for a legitimate reason, their child is not able to complete his or her homework by the deadline set and
- checking that bags containing homework are not over-loaded with unnecessary objects (Primary).

If parents have any questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher or subject teacher. If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the PYP or MYP coordinator.

(b) Students will be responsible for:

- completing their homework in all subjects,
- finding out homework when absent (sick or on excursion)-by checking with the teacher, or, if available, checking Managebac
- paying attention to the quality of their work,
- meeting deadlines, and
- learning to pack their bag sensibly, including only necessary items.

(c) Teachers aim to:

- adhere to the published policies and unit outlines,
- complete all marking in a reasonable timeframe,
- communicate with other relevant teachers to ensure the homework load is appropriate and fair,
- actively encourage students to use their diaries and other communication tools e.g. Managebac, student drives, diaries and/or communication books.
- ensure homework materials are as light as possible, and
- train students, and provide time for them to pack their bags with only the necessary items. (Primary)

3. Homework strategies

Homework is meaningful when students recognise it is worthy of their effort, for example because it develops fluency in skills introduced in class, and has clear links with the classwork that follows. Quality is always more important than quantity. As a rule, teachers do not assign homework to be completed during academic breaks.

At times, students may work on long-term projects that span several weeks and conclude after a break. However, there is no expectation that students should work on them during the break.

(a) PYP

In PYP, homework is assigned once a week on Thursday and should be completed by the following Wednesday. It is up to each family to decide when homework is completed. We recommend that a consistent routine be established. Homework is designed to help students develop a certain set of skills, attitudes towards learning, develop a deeper understanding through inquiry or work on an action.

Examples of homework IB PYP students may be given include:

- worksheets, drills or online exercises to support either subject specific skills or more general learning skills
- initial research into a new unit or area of study
- investigating a topic further, possibly with surveys, internet research, article reading, etc;
- 'front loading' of learning, for example by watching a video in preparation for the next day's class
- completion of assignments started in class
- discussing their learning with parents, including when permission letters need to be signed for excursions and school activities,
- opportunities for extension and enrichment when students to pursue individual projects (particularly, the PYP Exhibition which is completed by all students in Grade 5).

(b) MYP

Most work completed by IB MYP students on assignments, projects and cycles of planning, action and review is intended to be completed during class time, where it is integral to our units of inquiry. GIS aims to limit the time at home our students spend on school work, and at the same time, recognise that meaningful homework benefits student learning.

Examples of homework IB MYP students may be given include:

- opportunities for regular review and practice (particularly important in subjects like mathematics and languages),
- preparing for future lessons through obtaining background material, or reading,
- expanding the curriculum to incorporate "real life" situations (e.g., when current affairs are part of units of work),
- finishing or polishing assignments completed in class time,
- reflecting on their Approaches to Learning and progress,
- discussing their learning with parents, including when permission letters need to be signed for excursions and school activities. Having corrected tasks signed by parents is also part of this.
- opportunities for extension and enrichment when students to pursue individual projects (particularly, the Personal Project which is completed by all students in MYP 5).

If homework is to be assigned, then this will occur on the days when a lesson is given in the subject, with sufficient time provided to respect students' rights to family time on weekends (Appendix A).

Teachers will negotiate with each other to avoid clashes of due dates of major assignments, even when these are largely completed during class time. Summative tasks will be shown on the Managebac calendar.

4. References to Other Documents

This Homework Policy should be read in conjunction with:

- (a) GIS Assessment Policy
- (b) GIS Academic Honesty Policy

5. Policy Review

The GIS Assessment Policy will be reviewed annually in June with input from all faculty.

6. Implementation and Evaluation

Implemented and evaluated by all GIS teachers and staff.

7. Appendices

Appendix A: Example of Homework Timetable (2017-2018).

Appendix A: Example of Homework Timetable (2017-2018), one page per class.

Grade _6_	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
SFO 6:30 – 8:15					
Lesson 1 08:30 – 9.15	Assembly 6	(TM) PE	(AW) ENGLISH 8	(EB) GERMAN 6	(TM) I&S 6
Lesson 2 9.15 – 10.00	(AT) SCIENCE 6	(TM) PE (Occasional)	(AW) ENGLISH 8	(EB) GERMAN 6	(TM) MATHS 6
Morning Break					
Lesson 3 10.30 – 11.15	(TM) MATHS 8	(RG) DESIGN 6	(TM) I&S 6	(TM) MATHS 8	(AW) ART
Lesson 4 11.15 – 12.00	(TM) MATHS 8	(RG) DESIGN 6 (Occasional)	(TM) I&S 6	(AW) ENGLISH 8	(AW) ART
Lunch Break 12.00 – 12.50					
Lesson 5 12.50 – 1.35	(EB) NORWEGIAN 7	(TM) I&S 6	(EB) GERMAN 6	EARLY RELEASE FOR STUDENTS/MEETIN GS FOR STAFF	(AW) ENGLISH 6
Lesson 6 1.35 – 2.20	(EB) NORWEGIAN 7	(AT) SCIENCE 6	(EB) NORWEGIAN 7		(AT) SCIENCE 6
Lesson 7 2.20 – 3.05	(EB) GERMAN 7	(AT) SCIENCE 6	(EB) NORWEGIAN 7		PERSONAL INQUIRY TIME 6
Clubs	No Clubs	Clubs	Clubs		No Clubs