

Burgess-Peterson Academy Home Learning Philosophy

The mission of Burgess Peterson Academy is for the school and its community to develop knowledgeable and caring learners, guiding them to become life long thinkers and internationally minded citizens through engaging, inquiry based learning experiences. The school's **Home Learning Philosophy** supports this mission by strengthening our students' academic knowledge base, while also developing IB learners through inquiry and project based learning.

We believe learning is constant and with the support of home learning, our students will develop the mindset that curiosity and learning does not end when school is out. Our home learning experiences will provide opportunities for students, parents and educators to:

- Develop **routines and rituals** that will support strong **independent study habits** and **personal responsibility**;
- Encourage and foster a **positive** and **collaborative** school/home relationship with consistent and open **communication** with school leaders, educators and parents/guardians;
- Inform parents and other caregivers about their child's learning;
- Engage in a balance of **daily reading practice** and skill-oriented activities or creative projects.

Home Learning in PreK-1st Grades

It all starts here. During the PreK, kinder, and 1st grades, families are charged with helping young children develop positive routines and rituals around home learning. These routines and rituals will follow the child into the later years of school when home learning becomes more rigorous. The expected amount of time spent during home learning can be up to 30 minutes including daily reading to or with your child for 15 minutes daily.

What are parents expected to do?

- The MOST effective home activity parents can do with their very young children is to read to and with them daily. 15 minutes per day particularly at or around the same time everyday can provide the ritual of sitting down to continue learning. As students become better readers, the focus of this time should shift to students reading to parents or other family members.
- Provide an inviting and quiet place for children to try out other home learning activities that may have been sent home by the teacher.
- Stay positive about home learning and bring all concerns to the teacher in a professional and timely manner as BPA has resources and additional support that can be provided to parents and children to aid in this process.

What are students expected to do?

- Help parents by following home routines and participating in family rituals.
- Read or listen to stories daily. Enjoy books!!!
- Be academic risk takers and attempt the home learning activities sent home by the teacher.
- Play, run and jump! Enjoy the outdoors!

What are teachers expected to do?

- Send home learning activities that will be inviting and fun for the child and parent and relevant to what the child is learning in school.
- Ensure home learning receives feedback in a timely manner.
- Focus on the effort and time spent on the home learning activities rather than on completion/mastery.
- Be open for questions and comments from parents and students. Communicate the best way(s) for parents and caregivers to contact you and the times that you are available.

Home Learning in 2nd Grade

In the earlier years, Pre-K, Kinder and 1st grade, parents and teachers bear the greatest burden for ensuring that students begin to internalize the importance of practicing learned skills and enjoying books together while at home. Second grade is an important year as home learning assignments, like tasks completed during the school day, begin to **shift responsibility** for completion and understanding away from teachers and parents and more to the student. During second grade, teachers and parents will support students during this transitional year by providing appropriate scaffolds along with home learning tasks and projects. Students in 2nd grade should have up to 40 minutes of Home Learning 4 nights a week including 20 minutes of reading every day.

What are parents expected to do?

- Provide an inviting and quiet place for children to complete their home learning activities each evening.
- Stay positive about home learning and bring all concerns to the teacher in a professional and timely manner.
- Check that homework assignments are complete.
- Read with or listen to your student read for 20 minutes at least 5 days per week.
- Contact Ms. Greer in the BPA front office (qgreer@atlanta.k12.ga.us or 404-802-3400) to sign up for / get access to Infinite Campus Parent Portal.

What are students expected to do?

- Help parents by following home learning routines and participating in family rituals.
- Read books every day that stretch their learning and grow their interests.
- Be academic Risk-Takers, complete and return home learning activities given by the teacher.

What are teachers expected to do?

- Send home learning activities that are meaningful and relevant to content currently being taught.
- Ensure home learning is checked in a timely manner and feedback is given in a way that improves future performance and keeps parents informed.
- Be open to questions and comments from parents and students.
- Communicate to parents and caregivers the preferred manner and times for contacting the teacher.
- Encourage students to pass Accelerated Reader quizzes on books enjoyed at home and school. This will push students to meet or exceed their quarterly independent Accelerated Reader goals.

Home Learning in 3rd-5th Grades

As students move into the intermediate years, home learning tasks in grades 3-5 focus on transitioning from parent led responsibility to student ownership for completion and mastery. The objective is to allow students to continue to mature in their day-to-day roles while increasing their capacity for independent learning. The expected amount of time required in this grade band is up to 60 minutes in total, including 30 minutes for independent on-level pleasure reading of literary or informational text.

What are parents expected to do?

- Provide an inviting and quiet place for children to complete their home learning activities.
- Stay positive about home learning and bring all concerns to the teacher in a professional manner.
- Allow for home learning to be the responsibility of the student by expecting students to understand and record expectations of assignments, plan accordingly and complete in a timely manner.
- Check that home learning assignments are completed.
- Support, but not actively complete the child's home learning tasks. Discuss assignments and guide students as they work but avoid the temptation of doing it for them.
- Respect the teacher's professionalism.
- Contact Ms. Greer in the BPA front office (qgreer@atlanta.k12.ga.us or 404-802-3400) to sign up for / get access to Infinite Campus Parent Portal.
- Sign-off in student's agenda to verify 30 minutes of nightly reading.

What are students expected to do?

- Complete daily home learning and projects on time.
- Record assignments and project details for all classes in their agendas each day.
- Read books every day that stretch their learning and grow their interests.
- Question, explore and stretch your thinking and be sure to ask clarifying questions or let your teacher(s) know when you're confused.
- Be responsible for homework and be prepared for school.

What are teachers expected to do?

- Plan and assign engaging and appropriate home learning activities that support the learning level of students and are relevant to what the child is learning in the classroom.
- Whenever appropriate, provide an explanation or web-based resource to enable parents to best support their students at home.
- Provide to all families the APS Homework Hotline website for after hours assistance. www.atlanta.k12.ga.us/homeworkhotline
- Ensure home learning is checked in a timely manner and feedback is provided to ensure improved student performance and keep parents informed.
- Focus on completion as goal of daily home learning; whereas, mastery is the goal of projects while planning for equity and access to resources and support.