

VCA Middle School Student Agreement

Independent Work Agreement

The expectation for students to function independently increases as they progress through school. Middle school is a critical time as students experience change on several levels. Students are experiencing an increase in growth and development physically, as well as mentally and emotionally. In addition, the level of difficulty in academics grows, and demands more of their time. This challenges students to find a balance between academic and extracurricular commitments.

The school and home must partner together to help students find this balance. Encouragement and guidance is needed when academic expectations become challenging. It is heartbreaking to watch students struggle and get frustrated. The temptation to step in and “help” finish an assignment is strong. However, the growth comes in the struggle. Therefore, we ask parents to refrain from this type of “help” and instead listen to your child and encourage them by asking questions that will help them move to the next step. Students will have an increased sense of accomplishment when they complete the work themselves and will gain confidence in completing subsequent assignments.

For these reasons we have set the following criteria:

- All student work must reflect the student’s knowledge, not the knowledge of their parents
- Full credit will not be given for assignments that are not original work
- Plagiarism will result in zero credit for the assignment

I have read and understand the criteria for student assignments. I agree to support my child and help them meet the requirements.

Student’s Name

Date

Student’s Signature

Parent’s Name

Date

Parent’s Signature

Homework Policy

At Veritas Christian Academy homework is an important extension of the K-8th grade program. At the direction of the Superintendent, each teacher is responsible for assigning homework to reinforce classroom teaching, providing opportunities for extra challenge, and allowing parents to be involved in overseeing the progress of their child. The amount and frequency of homework varies according to core classes and grade level.

Parents: It is expected that parents will provide homework help for their child regardless of grade level, including but not limited to, a quiet place that is free of distractions. It is uncommon for a student to be able to work completely independently before entering high school. At VCA the teachers provide tools, such as the homework planner, and as students age this will help them work more independently. However, due to maturity and academic capability, it is rare that a student is capable of being 100% responsible for all school work. Teachers are always open to meeting with parents/students in order to provide further explanation and assistance. Please make sure to check and sign their homework planner on a daily basis, help your student remember to complete projects and reports on time, and check your RenWeb Parent account and email frequently to see how your child is doing. If you do not have internet access, it is expected that you will establish another means of communication with the teacher. If clarity is needed on an assignment it is expected that the student or parent initiate a conversation with the teacher before the due date.

Students: It is expected that 2nd-8th grade students write all detailed homework in their homework planner and show it to their parents nightly. Students are responsible for bringing all necessary books and supplies home in order to complete their homework successfully. Students are also responsible for turning in all completed homework on time. Incomplete/late homework, projects, and reports will result in a 10% grade reduction per day up to 5 days late and 50% credit.

Teachers: It is expected that teachers will provide clear instruction on what is required in terms of assignments given for homework. Clear written expectations and rubrics are provided for projects and reports. Projects and reports will be assigned at the beginning of each trimester for Language Arts, Science, and History. Due dates will be spaced out evenly over the trimester in order to avoid overlapping and undue stress. The weekly Middle School Memo will include when projects and reports have been assigned and their due date. Homework will not be given during the weeks of Terra Nova testing, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Spring Break and Easter Break along with Holiday weekends. Homework, projects, and reports will not be due within the week directly following the above stated Holidays. Students participating in Outdoor Education and Washington DC trip will not be assigned homework for classes missed. Students who do not participate in Outdoor Education or the Washington DC trip will be assigned a project that relates to what they will miss by not participating in the trip. Projects will be due the day returning to class. Students are expected to stay home during the time their classmates are participating in Outdoor Education or the Washington DC trip.

Accommodations are available for students who are working below grade level and have a diagnosed learning disability. A copy of the diagnosis and written accommodations are required before accommodations can be provided. A 504 Plan or an Academic Plan will be provided by VCA and placed in the student's file. A reevaluation will be required every three years.

Additional homework, projects and reports are available for students working above grade level and those requiring a higher challenge. More challenging work will only be provided after a parent, teacher, and administrator meeting. Providing all are in agreement, a written plan will be implemented and placed in the student's file.

Student's Name

Date

Student's Signature

Parent's Name

Date

Parent's Signature

VCA Student Handbook Acknowledgement Form

I acknowledge that I have read the VCA Middle School Student Handbook and due hereby promise to comply with all stated policies and expectations. I agree to the Matthew 18 Principle in dealing with conflict, and if a conflict arises I promise to first go directly to the person I am in conflict with before seeking assistance from a third party. I expect the best out of myself and out of those I am partnering with at Veritas Christian Academy and will hereby act accordingly.

Student's Name

Date

Student's Signature

Parent's Name

Date

Parent's Signature