

Homework Philosophy

MISSION OF SPECTRUM HIGH SCHOOL

The Mission of Spectrum High School is to encourage students in attaining their maximum potential through a 3-dimensional strategy emphasizing:

- College preparatory curriculum;
- A technology integrated environment; and
- Community-based outreach

HOMEWORK OBJECTIVES

Spectrum High School is a college prep 6-12 school. By design and intention, it is meant to be a more academically-rigorous educational choice. This is reflected in the school's mission, expectations, curriculum, and homework. Spectrum High School adheres to the Advancement Via Individual Determination [AVID]'s definition of rigor: "inquiry-based, collaborative strategies to challenge and engage students in content, resulting in increasingly complex levels of understanding." Choosing Spectrum means choosing to do homework, choosing to take challenging courses, and choosing to engage in high-level discussion with your teachers and peers.

A) *College Readiness*

Spectrum High School uses AVID strategies of writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading to prepare students for college and career. AVID defines college readiness as the level of preparation a student needs in order to enroll and to succeed without remediation in credit-bearing general education coursework at a college or university.

Spectrum strives for its graduates to enter their postsecondary institution without remediation.

B) *Academic Purpose*

There are three primary academic purposes for assigning homework:

- **Preparation** = Homework allows the student to prepare for a challenging lesson by grounding him or herself in introductory materials. In turn, this allows for class presentations and discussions to be more engaging.
- **Reinforcement** = Homework allows the student to practice and to maintain familiarity with concepts introduced in class.
- **Mastery** = Homework allows the student to practice concepts to the point of personal proficiency which is necessary to move forward in a content-based curriculum. In addition to the academic goals of homework, homework serves aspects of character education; it builds up the qualities in a student necessary to succeed throughout life such as discipline, planning, time management, decision-making, and accepting responsibility for one's actions.

C) *Homework at Spectrum*

Spectrum High School intends to make homework purposeful and aligned with the goals of delivering a college preparatory education. There are critical times of the year (e.g. mid quarter or end of quarter) when additional time may be needed for project completion or test preparation. Homework time does not consider individual student learning styles, needs, efficiencies, or family educational goals (e.g. grades, college/university aspirations, etc.) In the event that a student is experiencing difficulty in completing homework, please schedule a meeting with the appropriate teacher and/or contact the school principal.