

# BCMS Homework Comments

- With activities outside of school it is difficult to plan activities, supper and proper bedtimes and family time
- It is hard to meet all of the deadlines if all subjects require the same amount of time spend nightly than adding a project on top can be a very difficult task. It is especially hard if they have after school activities as well.
- My child spends too much time on her homework as she has a lot. My 2 boys in grade 6 didn't have near the amount so not sure what in the curriculum has changed.
- Would like to have more home work on daily basis on each subject
- I am new to the area but have sitters that attend fhs, they have looked at the amount of homework Emma has and they always comment on how much homework it is.....kids need to be able to be kids too! I think it's extreme
- I have another child that recently graduated from Bliss and found that my child was not prepared for the amount of homework and tests given in high school. I don't necessarily believe more homework is needed but there is a huge difference between middle school and high school which can make the transition difficult. Maybe if some homework was given every night for no more than 30 minutes it would at least get them into a routine of having nightly homework. I found the homework to be inconsistent at Bliss - sometimes very heavy with lots of projects and other times nothing.
- I have often been given the response that students can come in at lunch to finish work and to study. That seems to be the expectation. Social time at this age is also important. If there is so much work given that students cannot finish it in class then it is too much. I find the amount of assignments given at one time to be a lot at times and taking tests on memorized facts and notes does not teach children anything. I don't feel that the curriculum for science and social studies is being followed and that the teaching methods used are very traditional and do not fit with a 21st century classroom. I've been a middle school teacher for almost 20 years and high hopes for my daughter going into middle school but have so far been disappointed in the way she is being taught and the type of work she is doing. She used to love school and now does not like it at all. Very disappointing.
- 5 projects / assignments at a time for a gr 8 student is over the top in my opinion. When do they have time between school and extra curricular to be kids?
- I felt that grades 6 & 7 there was not much homework at all. Then in Grade 8 the homework started. This may be overwhelming for some students to go from not much to required homework all at once. When they hit high school the kids needs to be prepared to do homework and know how to schedule their work ie: don't leave everything till last minute because more classes will assign in the meantime. middle school needs to prepare them to organize themselves accordingly or they will struggle in high school and the work world afterwards. suggest give mid assignment deadlines to have a portion done if not doing now.
- It is not the amount of homework that matters to me, it is the quality of homework. Major assignments and projects should have more class time devoted to them so that TEACHERS can monitor progress and provide support and guidance where needed. The end product should not matter as much as helping students to develop the necessary skill set to create high quality work. Conferences and one-to-one support within the classroom is key.

- There are a few instances when my child has lots of homework, but more often than not, there is no homework. He is a very strong student, though, so he often gets things done quickly in class. It would be nice if he had a bit more homework, but not enough is better than too much!!!
- Homework needs to be meaningful and not over-bearing. If a student works hard all day long, then after school and evening should be more focused on family and personal time for health, wellness and rest.
- Teachers are doing their best to prepare our children for high school homework and learning to balance work and play.
- Dear Teacher, as the parents of the child in grade 6, we would like to get more homework for our child, since, it will reduce the time spending for game, film ..., more homework, more time spending for study, for future !
- Set the students up for success. Ensure that the level of homework given by the time they reach grade 8 is reflective of what they will be expected to do in high school. Please do not reduce home work because of pressure from groups with children in extracurricular activities. Extracurricular activities are just that, extracurricular, homework should always be the priority.....
- I think it is important that all teachers communicate about larger projects so that students don't have several due simultaneously. In addition, I feel projects such as STEM and Heritage fair should be optional not mandatory.
- The appropriateness of homework volume is likely different for every student, as each has their own strengths, challenges, likes and dislikes. For my child, getting through the school day is work itself. In the evening, he's trying to recharge, so adding on another hour+ of homework can be negatively impactful. I recognize testing is part of school. Kids must learn the skill of organizing themselves and their time for study, and putting in the required effort to achieve the desired result. I'm not opposed to testing and to some homework but it should be relevant, meaningful and thoughtfully coordinated, taking into consideration assignments of other classes and if necessary, keeping in mind the particular challenges of the students. If we think of it in terms of adulthood, how many of us love putting in a 7 hour day, then having additional work nightly on top of other commitments such as family events, exercise, etc. Yes, it occurs but we sure hope it's not a nightly event.
- Grade 6 is a big jump for many students with long days. The homework being sent home is often busy work, and not differentiated to meet student needs. Projects should be done in class- not sent home, so that it is the work of the child and not the parent. I do not mind work sent that is unfinished from class time, but sheet work (that is sent home weekly) just to have homework is unnecessary and is not reinforcing or increasing my child's academics. Research has proven reading is the only homework to increase academic abilities. My child spends more than an hour a night on homework, lot's of weekend time, and most lunch hours. I am very concerned about the stress/anxiety it is causing. Many students have activities after school and the amount of homework is often too much combined by all classes.
- I see to is better to give child daily home work which need time not less than 1:33 hours to let him used to spend part his free time in home to school and studying
- I feel regular homework is necessary, especially for kids struggling academically. Keeps material fresh in their minds, and gives them something to be responsible for. An hour a night won't kill them!
- 1) While project work is important to learn structuring the work with real scenarios, the projects should be completed during school hours. The child requires guidance throughout the entire project and, often, the parents are not equipped to help the child. Also, the child feels competing with other kids who's parents are more educated or simply bilingual.  
2) I don't really understand why it is up to teachers to use Weebly, techwicky or personal pages to

post school work. How hard is to standardize this making it accessible to parents from the main school site? Is it possible to start the year with cleaner sites and not having to go through previous years assignments and activities?

3) Thank you for caring for our children education. I wish I had such group of professional educators during my childhood.

- Although I indicated that I think there is too little homework, apparently much of the homework is done at school so it may only appear there is too little since I do not see it being completed at home.
- We have no issues with students having homework - however, some of the assignments are dated and stale. Gone are the days of posters and powerpoint presentations. The stand and deliver model needs to change so that students have more access to resources that build creativity, curiosity, collaboration, and confidence. Thank you.
- Homework should only be left over classwork that wasn't finished in class. Not all parents speak or understand French, or can help with Math. So starting something at home can lead to a lot of frustration for the child if the parent is unable to help or the parents work evenings.
- I suspect, students with a lot of homework are not completing their work in class. My son has very little homework but works hard to complete his work and use his time wisely. You may need to differentiate between "homework" and "not completing work or assignments" as thus having more "homework".
- It's challenging finding time between kids' activities.
- Thinking back to a recent conversation I had with my child, the gender question on your survey does not include enough options for today's parents to all respond.
- At the onset of the school year we were told in several emails that little homework would be assigned however it seems we juggle more homework than ever. My son never had this amount of homework going through middle school and I do see a significant change/increase. Also because there seems to be a large number of days where they have substitute teachers - we spend a lot of time trying to learn material at home because it was not properly covered by a substitute. Not their fault but they seem to miss a lot of material in those classes.
- I found that my child spent too much time on drawing for any type of assignment, such as English homework, French homework or social studies, regardless of whether it was related to art works or not. My child likes drawing; then homework gave her a good excuse to spend too much time on drawing. But I think for a grade sixer, they should be encouraged to describe a thing or talk about a topic by using words.
- It seems like most homework falls into the category of major assignments/projects. It would be appropriate in my view to apply some class work review on a regular basis. There is always reading being assigned, but if review of science, social studies, math, health and French is also assigned this would cover some of the required reading time expected.
- I feel that the amount of homework is appropriate; however, I also feel that when a major assignment is due (STEAM for example) that the other classes should decrease the homework given for a bit of time. Also- it is very hard to keep up with the different assignments and expectations. If each grade level team could use the one method of communication (Seesaw, DoJo, Remind, weebly)- this would avoid the hassle of having to check for information in five different places.
- Some classes seem to give numerous assignments per week (language arts) and other classes give few to zero assignments (science). Others seem to balance it well (math).

My child completes all assignments at school so it appears to me there is no homework.

I am concerned that my child will not be prepared for the onslaught of homework in high school. Being prepared and developing good habits for high school is my priority.

- The key word is children, but what students are expected to accomplish is excessive. Students who attend BCMS are doing far more in a day than most adults. Nightly homework does not allow extra time for projects which are being pushed to EVERY weekend. Please remember, the students are children who have families and other activities necessary for a well rounded individual.
- Our daughter had a much greater volume of homework & special projects last year (Gr. 6) than this year (Gr. 7). Finding time to get this work completed was a significant stressor for her and for us as her parents. She found it difficult to motivate herself to start the work, to stay on track and get it done, and she rarely went to bed at a reasonable hour (causing her to be overtired most mornings and quite anxious about school in general). Homework was also competing with other equally important activities such as: after school programs, sports/fitness, music, and family time. We found ourselves nagging her to either start and/or finish her homework on almost a daily basis and it made for a very poor quality home life and a poor transition into middle school at BCMS. Her Gr 7 homework volumes are much more manageable, but it seems that way more by chance than for any other reason. BCMS should develop clear standards on the types & max volumes of homework teachers can assign per day.
- I do feel homework SHOULD be done in class, NOT AT HOME, as some parents such as myself do not know how-to properly complete and help their child as the curricular has gone to shit!
- I do not agree with homework at this age.
- I feel homework is important but it should be no more important than my child's activities. i.e. my child shouldn't miss an activity to do homework and vice versa. This is fine balance that we're struggling to achieve.
- I feel practice is an important part of learning as well as having the opportunity to support my child with their homework difficulties. It seems much of the homework is a result of study for tests but the bulk of the work is done in class.
  
- I wonder if grade level teams could coordinate projects so that they are only working on one project at a time. As well as making STEAM optional or for it to be completed at school. Also it would be beneficial for Grade 6 students to be taught strategies for handling homework and organizing it. Middle school is a big change on it's own, adding in so much homework is a lot when they are not use to it. I appreciate the emails from the teacher's to keep us informed, but I sometimes find it difficult to keep track of all the assignments that are due, could there be some sort of calendar that parents could look on and see all of their child's assignments that are due that week?
- I would like to see my child challenged to find a solution to a problem. Enrichment opportunities are adequate and he has luckily been chosen to be involved. What more can be done? What are they missing? How are they connected?
- It feels like our son has quite a bit more homework than our older son had a few years ago at Bliss Carman. With his extracurricular activity and sports that he has on the go it makes it challenging to have enough time to put an acceptable effort into homework. We're trying to find that balance. We really appreciate the teachers that do let us know what their homework is for the week as he tends to 'forget' easily. It's help us plan our week better and let's the children be active and able to accomplish their school objectives.
- I would prefer to see practice sheets for all assignments including extra work. I find it tough to figure out homework when I am going to different places/websites for each teacher. Perhaps the paper method, or emailing to a distribution list for nightly homework would be the best way to

ensure that everyone knows what is expected. I would love to see one area for news/homework etc. Too many apps, sites, to keep track off...even for my child.

- The expectations for homework is far too high for this level. I don't arrive home until 5 in the evening so by the time supper is made and eaten/ cleaned up it can be 6:30-7pm. Sitting at that time to do 60 plus minutes of homework is excessive. Gone are the days of the stay at home parent who meets the child at the bus and has hours in the evening to do homework. I feel teachers are forgetting this.
- Too many emails from too many teachers. Hard to keep track of who wants what. Should be more coordination between teachers to ensure major assignments/projects don't overlap or pile up. Needs to be more lead time given on major projects. Steam should be optional and can easily frustrate students & parents who are not fluently bilingual. Kids simply resort to copying previous projects posted online bc there is no focus on the scientific method or a push to generate novel ideas. Steam for the sake of Steam is largely a waste of time and a month whereby the science teacher could be providing instruction and not merely being presented to.
- I wish my child to be a successful hard worker in his future. Therefore, at his age, sometimes the work that takes him one hour and half is required for this training.
- Once again French immersion students seem to be given greater homework and projects vs English. My child does not struggle in school so hate to see those that do. Too much expectation put on student.
- In order to be able to perform effectively at work in the real world , 'older children' in middle school and up need to be given an appropriate amount of regular assignments and projects to be able to function well as adults .
- in elementary school our child rarely had homework and this year he is expected to keep several different teacher's assignments straight. I don't mind the work sheets that are sent home as they are emailed so we can help our child learn to plan the week. I get frustrated when I get a notice from the teacher that his homework was not passed in but it is two weeks later- when I ask him he has no idea what the assignment was as he has had so many since. Very hard to follow up on. It is hard for parents who are not bilingual to review homework or know what the assignments even are about as they are all in French. Could the teachers plan together so when a major project like Steam is happening they stop sending home other homework? if your child doesn't get something done in class and it is the week that major projects are due it is not fair to also send this home as well. There are not enough hours at night to complete. If I find it hard to keep straight not sure how 11 year olds can.
- I believe more homework is needed on a consistent basis to develop good study habits. Thank you!
- Too many social activities. Too little homework. Learning can be fun! Create academic activities that promote learning versus hockey games, etc. School website could benefit from purging old notices on a regular basis.
- I do not feel that we are setting our children up for success as we do not give them enough responsibility to complete their work at home. This is not how it works in high school or university.
- Would like my child to have more responsibility for completing homework at home. I fear he will not be prepared for high school.
- My daughter is up way too late stressing and trying to complete homework, she is not getting the proper amount of rest.
- My child does her homework at school, which is her choice, but I wonder what she is missing out on at school during this time. I think 30 mins per night (average) is appropriate for students in grade 6. Thanks for the survey.

- On occasion the amount of homework is a bit too much for sure.
- Time is not the only condition to measure. A wide range of experiences and interests do matter. Every student who comes into contact with real knowledge will be attracted. Let them aware about how many choices they could have in the future.
- There are too many projects in addition to study time for tests/written assignments for each subject. The projects should be spread out across the semester/term. One project each term or one major individual or group project for the year.
- The big projects have too much time required out of school to complete. My child is in immersion and because he comes from an English only home, he depends on on-line translators for work at home. This work should be completed at school where there are language supports (not on-line translators)
- More French homework
- I think the amount is just a bit too much but my daughter seems to take a long time to complete so it could be more that she is slow than too much.
- It is very difficult for my child to focus on homework in the evenings. Short, consistent exercises are better than lengthy worksheets
- I feel that homework expectations this year are reasonable. Notification of assignments, tests, etc are far enough in advance to prepare for them. This is an improvement over what was happening last year. Much appreciated!
- I have included time spent on the STEM project in my answers to the above questions. It also includes not only time spent during evenings but weekends as well. I believe the learning outcomes for STEM need to be examined to see if it really requires 3 months (Nov-Jan) of work to complete. Can it be completed in a shorter time frame so it does not drag on for 3 months causing over the top stress for students and parents? This is especially difficult when all of the other homework is added on top. I have been told that once STEM is over, the Heritage Fair project starts and basically the stress levels and/time/energy requirements stay the same for a long period of time. I know the grade 7 team talks regularly about assignments/due dates. It is the quantity of the requirements I strongly disagree with. In our household, these requirements are negatively affecting our quality of life.
- I think some homework may be done, at school though I am unsure.
- STEAM is a challenging project to come up with an idea that is suitable (the worst part of the whole thing, really). Very difficult as a parent to assist in that part. Once the idea was there, though, he was able to do the work himself. He worked and worked and worked on this project and although it was tough to find time due to evenings filled with extra curricular activities he did complete it by working on it right after school. I'm glad the project was given in the fall term, as the winter term would be even more rushed and more weekend activities and tournaments that would have conflicted.  
I think he learned a lot by doing this project, even though it is the project that is dreaded every year because there is so much to it. As much as we hate it as a family, it was good for him. He really showed how much he learned from doing them from prior years, as he had little assistance from us this year.
- To clarify I don't think the average homework is too much however when there are several projects added on top it definitely becomes overwhelming. Particularly when the kids are encouraged to partake in the school activities. We are a "school first" family so homework trumps anything else but it does get hard to manage at times. Average homework tends to get done in a rushed manner when there are other projects layered on top which can affect best work. We appreciate being given a voice in this matter.

- It would be nice to see coordination in homework or just assignments in general. After 3 years in middle school, I would say my son has had an assignment to write his biography at least 4 times. It is redundant and not creative. I appreciate that Bliss Carmen has staggered the science fair for different grades but I feel that the amount of home time and class time is completely disproportionate to the learning outcomes. It is also not an inclusive learning activity as we are a family with means and if we find the science fair projects stressful, I'm sure other families would be even more stressed. Thank you for reaching out for feedback.
- This survey is ridiculous. Our children barely get enough of an education - let them do homework
- We have gone from 60 minutes a week of homework in grade five, to at least 60 minutes a night in grade six. We also find our child has to do a lot of work on the weekends just to keep up with the work assigned. He is frustrated, and so are we!