

November 19, 2018

Dear Tenafly Parents/Caregivers,

As we prepare to welcome the Thanksgiving holiday in just a few short days, I take this opportunity, on behalf of the administrative team of the Tenafly Public Schools, to acknowledge Policy 2330 and Regulation 2330 of the Tenafly Board of Education, both of which focus on the topic of Homework.

As stated in this policy, and then outlined in its adjoining regulation, "*The Board of Education believes that homework relevant to material presented in class provides an opportunity to broaden, deepen, or reinforce the student's knowledge.*"

In order to provide students equal opportunities to broaden, deepen, or reinforce their knowledge in the specific areas that are of particular interest to them, and in the interest of promoting students' social and emotional wellness, the Tenafly Public Schools continue to implement the following district-wide practice regarding homework over extended school/holiday breaks:

- No homework is due/no assessments are conducted on the day of return from Thanksgiving Break.
- No homework is due/no assessments are conducted on the day of return from the December Holiday Break.
- With the exception of AP (Advanced Placement) courses at THS, no homework is due/no assessments are conducted on the day of return from the February Mid-Winter (Presidents' Day) Break.
- Homework may be due/assessments may be given on the day of return from the Spring Recess (April); teachers are given the discretion to make the decision that they deem best for their students.

The implementation of this practice is not intended to preclude students from engaging in academic work over breaks, nor is it intended to suggest that we do not foster academic activities, such as reading, creative construction, and exploration, over school breaks. Instead, it is intended to provide students the time to read, create and explore their own interests, at their own pace and in their own way, without due dates or teacher-created expectations.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this practice, do not hesitate to reach out to your child's school principal.

In closing, I share with you an excerpt from the poem "Homework" by Jane Yolen:

*What is it about homework
That makes me want to write
My Great Aunt Myrt to thank her for
A sweater that's too tight?*

...

*What is it about homework
That makes me volunteer
To take the garbage out before
The bugs and flies appear?*

...

*What is it about homework?
You know, I wish I knew,
'Cause nights when I've got homework
I've got so much to do!*

Very Truly Yours,



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