

Treeside Charter School Homework Procedure

Homework for Students:

In alignment with our Waldorf inspired, whole-child and developmental methodology, Treeside Charter School believes that continued learning at home is essential; however, we do not assign formal homework.

Our goal is that throughout the school day, your students will be inspired to continue learning at home on their own as a natural outgrowth of curiosity and thirst for knowledge. Students that are motivated in this manner will continue to practice the songs they learned during the day. They will want to show their parents and siblings the new skills they have acquired and they will want to further perfect their abilities on their own. We believe that the school is simply an extension of the learning that takes place at home and that learning should never stop just because school is over for the day.

Because reading well is the basis of all academic and career success, students should read independently every day. Parents should provide a place they can read uninterrupted. It works best if it is something appropriate that they enjoy. This is a wonderful opportunity for the entire family to stop and spend uninterrupted time simply reading individually. When students see that their parents love reading and do it often, they will want to follow your example.

Students participate in many learning activities during a day and if some activities are not completed, students are encouraged to finish them at home. Additionally, students participate in projects that can only be completed if work is done at home. These projects require creativity and should be done by the student with little to no parent input.

Daily Homework for Parents:

Treeside Charter School believes that two of the most important things that parents can do are to:

1. Read with your student every night at least 20 minutes. The student will be reading as much as he or she can, depending on the student's age, and the parent actively engaged in stepping in when the student struggles. Part of the reading includes asking the child what they understand from the story and extending their understanding by asking if they agree with it, or how they would change the story. Done correctly, this pattern will develop deep independent thinkers and lifelong readers.
2. Ask your students to teach you what they learned and your students will surprise you with the amount of knowledge and skills acquired. At first your student may want to tell you the minimum, "I learned math" or "I learned Science", etc... do not relent! Ask him or her, "Show me what you learned in math." If your student cannot teach you what he or she learned, then that is a sign that you should contact the teacher and see how you can help your student get the learning he or she needs. Be persistent in this and your student will come to enjoy this time teaching you!