

Frequently Asked Questions

Homework – 8th grade girls should expect on average one hour of homework per night not including independent credit reading. The amount of homework may vary greatly from night to night, so it is good for students to plan ahead as much as possible, working on long-term assignments on days they have a light homework load. In this way, they will be less burdened with work all at once (such as the night before a test). Students can access the Google Classroom calendar to track due dates of most assignments. Some weekly assignments such as spelling or vocabulary tests may not show up there, but will happen at the same time each week. Time management and organizational skills will become indispensable as they move toward high school. Many students like to take pictures of the classroom homework board each day before leaving school in case there are specialists' assignments not entered in Google.

Tests – Tests can cause stress. Tests are announced at least one week in advance and study guides are given during fall and winter terms. These guides describe what types of questions will be asked. They also provide a list of terms and concepts students are expected to know. It is up to the students to gather materials needed and study for several days before the test. An in-class review is done before each test, during which students can ask questions and take notes on any information they are uncertain of.

Independent Credit Reading – It is expected that eighth grade students are reading 20-30 minutes several days each week. This independent reading time is in addition to their assigned homework. Each term, students will be required to show evidence of their independent reading through oral or written reports.

Birthdays – Due to the volume of allergies and dietary restrictions among the student population, BACS no longer accepts birthday or other edible treats brought in for our classes. While this is disappointing for many, we recognize our duty to keep our students safe and feel that edible treats can be enjoyed at celebrations outside of school. In 8th grade, birthday girls are celebrated with a tiara which they may wear all day after chapel. Special acts of kindness toward the birthday girl are encouraged on her day. Summer birthdays will be celebrated before the end of the school year.

Community Service – 8G has one annual community service project which we do together as a class. On the Friday before Thanksgiving, the 8th grade girls stay at school for lunch and help set up the craft sale. This is a fun and easy way to give back to our community, and our help is greatly appreciated by craft sale organizers.

Secret Santa – The 8th grade girls like to have a gift exchange before Christmas. We draw names randomly, and have a price limit of \$10 for gifts. Some students may feel that the price limit is too low. However, it is important that each girl feels that she can participate and that her gift does not pale by comparison to others.' I encourage students to bring homemade gifts (beaded jewelry, a painting, a decorated box, etc) which can be inexpensive and have a loving personal touch.