

- BHS Library
- 52 Institute Road
- Burlington, VT 05408
- 802-864-8404 - Library
- 802-864-8585 - Mr. Henri Sparks

Burlington High School Homework Center

September 5, 2012

Dear Burlington High School Parent/Guardian,

Monday September 10th will be the first day of **Burlington High School's Homework Center (H.C.)**. This center provides tutorial academic support for your student on campus afterschool. We are looking forward to starting the new school year by supporting all students who are in need. We've discovered by being proactive and by taking a different approach affords students with a greater opportunity for success.

The **H.C. will be held in the library Monday - Thursday from 3:15-4:30pm** where it will provide up-to-date resources, multilingual liaisons as needed, tutors and an atmosphere conducive to academic studies. We will keep you (the parents/guardians) involved and aware of your student's performance by keeping in contact with regular phone calls and/or email if problems arise. There is also a Homework Center (Wednesday Choice) on **Wednesdays at 7:45-8:45am in the library**.

Homework Referrals

When a student falls behind by **two or more homework assignments** in one or more classes he/she is given a 'Homework Referral' by their respective teacher. A Homework Referral requires the student to meet with Homework Center staff and arrange a time afterschool when he/she can make up the past due work. The student is required to stay after school in the Homework Center until all of the past work is complete. This proactive approach has been successful in the past in getting past due work handed in and thereby increasing student's overall grades.

If your child is given a Homework Referral we will contact you by phone. We ask that you help us in this process. With your help we can make arrangements to get the work done. We will set a place and a timeframe for homework completion. Typically the place is the library and the timeframe is everyday afterschool until the assignments are complete.

When you talk to the student please discuss the importance and **mandatory** nature of the student reporting to the Homework Center and getting this work completed. Action will be taken until the assignments are completed.

We understand that students have extracurricular activities that take place after school, but we strongly believe that completing missing homework assignments should take priority.

A Homework Referral is to be used as a powerful academic tool to ensure the success of struggling students. It is not bad to receive one, nor should it make the student feel inadequate. We all learn at our own pace.

Flexible Hours

If you know of a student in need of academic support and can't come during these times; please let us know and we can try to make other arrangements for students to have academic support with their assignments. The H.C. will be staffed with regular faculty members and several volunteers. Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions, comments, questions or concerns.

Henri Sparks
Director of Equity
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