



Barton Open School TYPE Presentation

Student and Teachers Communication with Homework and Curriculum

Introduction

This year, Clara Barton Open School YPE program has decided to focus on students' time management and student/teacher communication. We gathered approximately 25 students to participate in a focus group asking a number of questions pertaining to the main idea. There was also a focus group with the teachers and a survey with the whole 7th & 8th grade.

Main Question

How does student and teacher communication affect learning?

Student Questions for the Student Focus Group

1. Do you participate in any after school activities - at school or outside of school? (how often, how long?)
 2. How do your after school activities affect your work in class and homework?
 3. How could teachers better help you plan (including how to use your planner)
 4. What is the best way for you to get information for classes? How often do you look at your syllabus?
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Student Survey

QUESTIONS:

- 1) In which class do you spend the most time on homework?
 - 2) On average, how much time do you spend on homework each week?
 - 3) How often do you use your planner?
 - 4) Do you think teachers are aware of your other assignments and due dates?
 - 5) Do you think it would be useful if teachers would communicate about assignments and due dates?
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Student Themes

1. **Stressed by homework**
 - Staying up late affects school work
 2. **Not being balanced in the amounts of work (from teacher to teacher)**
 - Desire for more consistency
 - Wanted teachers aware of other teachers' assignments/projects
 3. **Surprised that students**
 - Wanted programming that barton had in the past such as options
 - Computer/ tech resources are not equitable or up to date
 4. **Planners "don't help" - wanted more reminders from teachers in other ways**
 - Wanted more emails
 - Wanted things laid out week by week and or day by day
 - Wanted teachers to respond to emails after school
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Continued Student Themes

- Afraid to ask teachers questions in person
- Wanted more access to teachers outside of class time- different/better communication

5. Environmental/system concerns and requests

- Wants block days, longer class periods (cut down on drama too)
 - Study hall
 - Classes are too short- too much info presented, need more time to work in class
 - **Random: water fountains, wanted to do murals**
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Film: 1%

Health: 2%

Language Arts: 44%

Math: 34%

Science: 5%

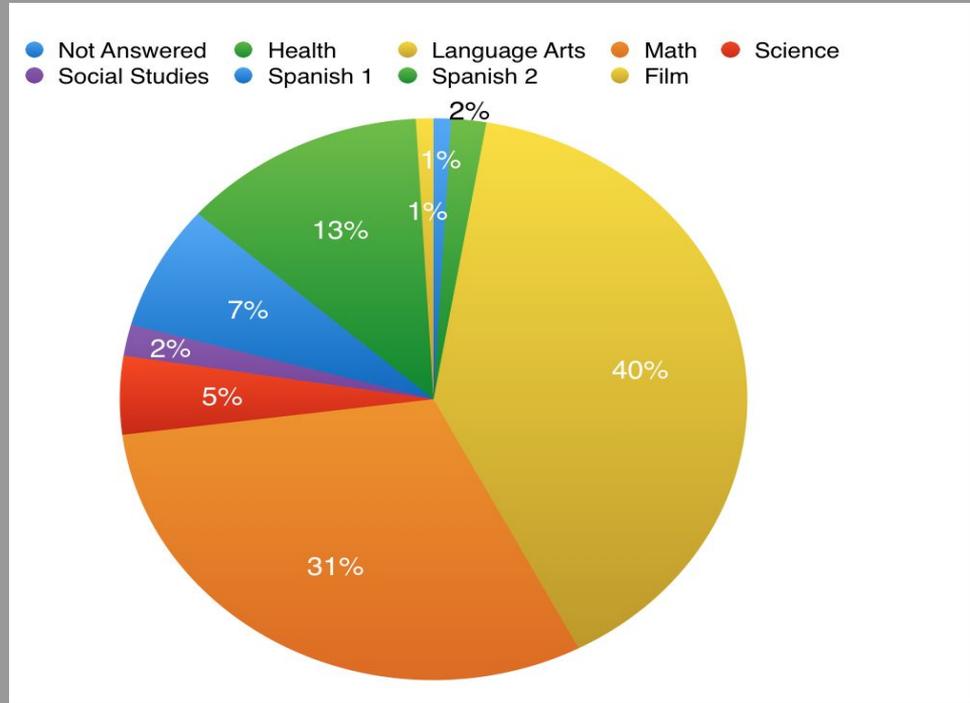
Social Studies: 2%

Spanish 1: 8%

Spanish 2: 14%

Not Answered: 1%

1) For which class do you spend the most time on homework?



2) On average, how much do you spend on homework each week?

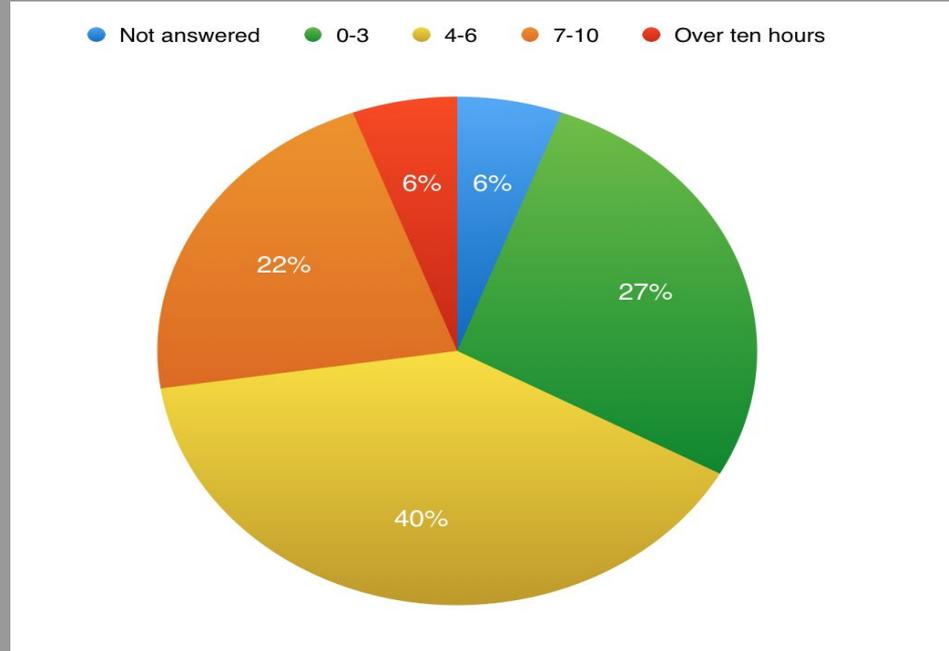
0-3 hours: 29%

4-6 hours: 42%

7-10 hours: 23%

Over 10 hours: 6%

Not answered: 6%



How often do you use your planner?

Never: 6%

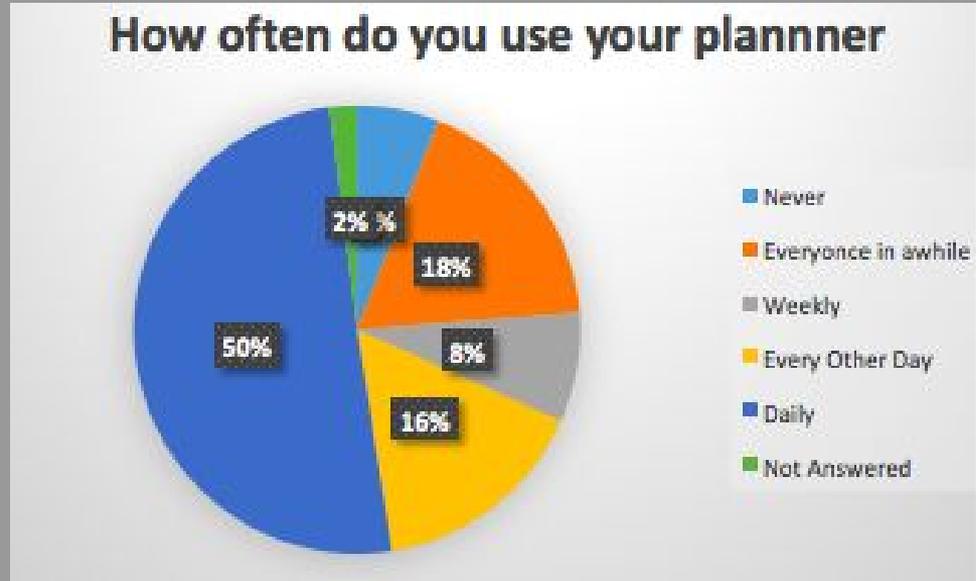
Every once in awhile: 18%

Weekly: 8%

Every other day: 16%

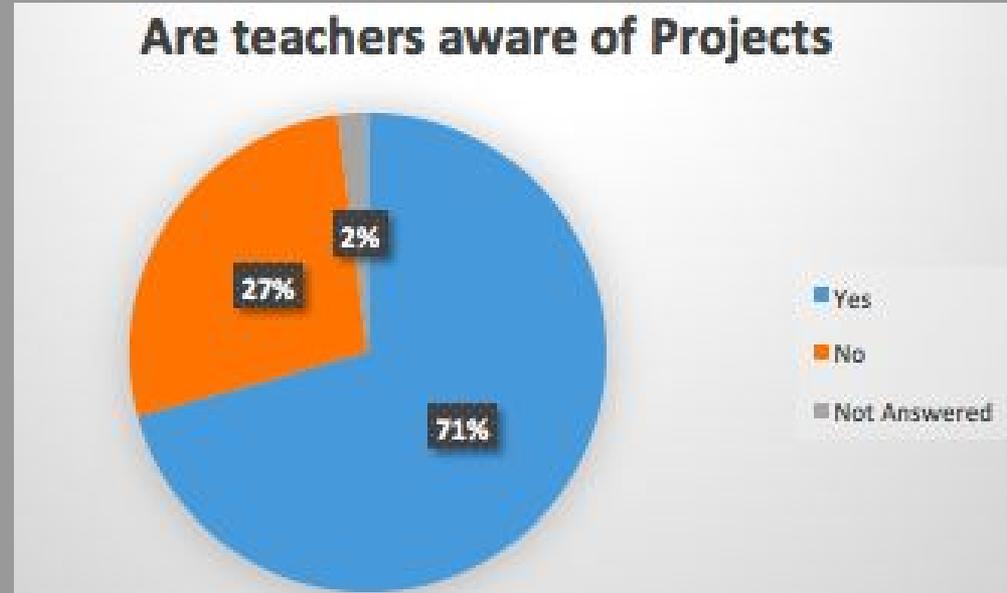
Daily: 51%

Not answered: 2%



4) Do you think teachers are aware of assignments and due dates?

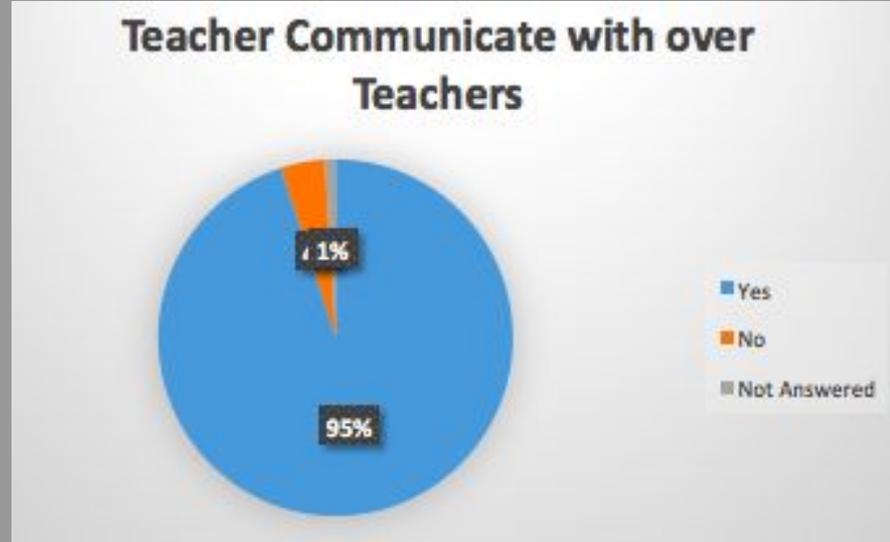
In conclusion, most students don't think that teachers are aware of other major assignments due in other classes. Students think that it would be helpful if teachers planned assignments together and created a steady balance for each class.



Yes: 70% No: 27% Not answered: 2%

Do you think it would be useful if teachers would communicate about assignments and due dates?

As the previous slide said, many students don't think that teachers are aware of major assignments that are due in other classes. This is due to a lack of communication, which 95% of students would agree with.



Yes: 95% No: 4% Not answered: 1%

On average, how much time do you spend on homework each week?

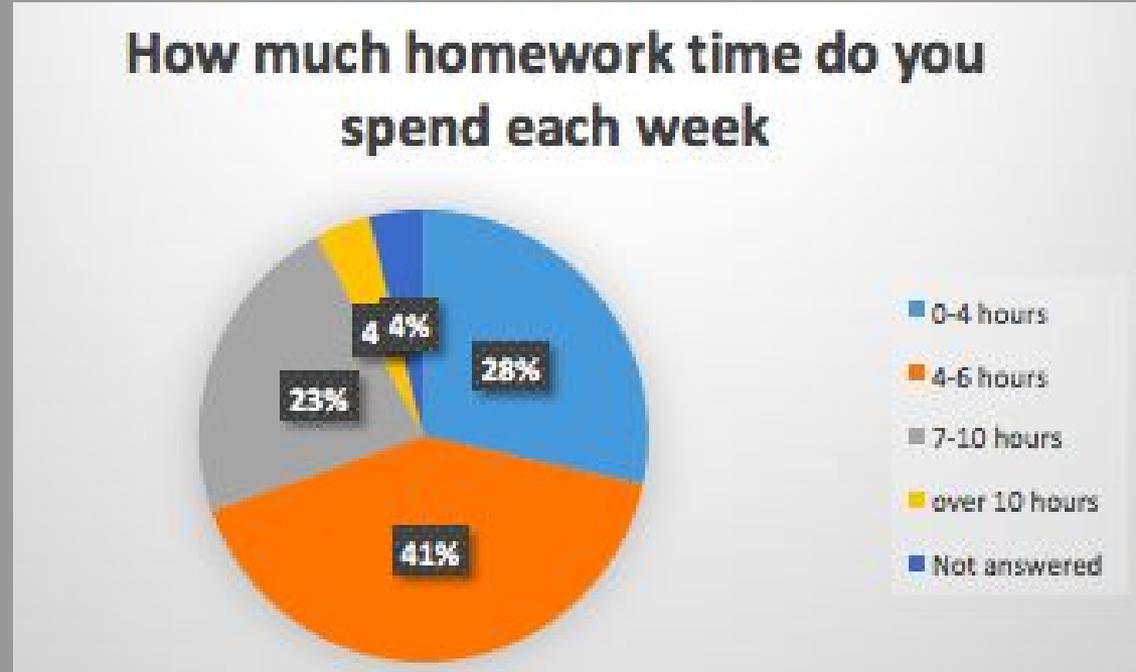
0-3 Hours: 29%

4-6 Hours: 42%

7-10 Hours: 23%

Over 10 Hours: 4%

Not Answered: 4%



Teacher Questions:

- * How do you use the planner in your classes ?
 - * Do you talk with other teachers about the quantity and timing of homework ?
 - * How much time do you think students spend on after school activities ?
 - * Approximately how many hours of homework do you assign each week ?
 - * What are your strategies you use to help students stay in engaged in your class ?
 - * Is there anything you want to tell us that we haven't asked about ?
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The Results Of Teachers Focus Group:

- Teachers expect the students to use their planner.
 - According to our findings teachers don't communicate in order for students to have a balance homework schedule. On the other hand teachers speculate that they are well aware of projects in different classes, students also have sufficient amount of time for each class's homework.
 - Teachers argue that students at least tend to spend 2-6 hours on homework in a week.
 - Teachers state that they make an effort to have a compelling class.
 - Teachers visualize students as mature, creative, intelligent students.
 - They also try to incorporate real current events in their classroom
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CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, we've noticed a pattern developing: students feel as if the workload can sometimes be excessive and wishing that teachers could give less homework, and teachers believing that the amount of homework being given out is appropriate and any extracurricular activities that students decide to participate in are their responsibilities.

We are sure that a lack of communication between students and teachers is at fault for this confusion.

Recommendation For Teachers and Students:

- ❖ More and better communication between teachers and students outside of school (emails, texts, etc.)
 - ❖ Students should reach out to their teachers more often if they need support.
 - ❖ Most importantly, creating a system that helps students have a balanced homework schedule.
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