

2016-
2017

VMMS Academic Honesty Policy

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Introduction



It is the goal of the faculty at Vista Magnet Middle School to model and maintain high standards for personal conduct. These standards are in line with the ten International Baccalaureate character traits, which engender an emphasis on personal honesty, discipline, and integrity. The faculty at VMMS puts faith in the fact that all students are at school to do their own work. It is believed that all work turned in for credit by a student is the result of that student's own efforts, creativity, and ability. When that is not the case and academic misconduct occurs, this is the result of a student turning in work that was copied or otherwise generated from another source. Academic misconduct is a serious violation of school and IB policy at Vista Magnet Middle School.

Philosophy



The early and mid-adolescent years are a crucial time for self-development and self-efficacy. Students often experience pressure from social, emotional, academic, and environmental factors. As such, the faculty at Vista Magnet Middle School promote restorative practices that nurture the student in relation to academic honesty and personal conduct. Academic honesty is viewed as part of a larger focus on being “principled” and acting with integrity and honesty. Students at VMMS are encouraged to learn the skills and behaviors necessary to model the IB character traits, which are embedded throughout the curriculum. Therefore, the IB learner characteristics are the cornerstone of the school’s academic honesty policy.

Definitions of Academic Misconduct



I. Copying

- Reproducing work from any source other than one's self (peer, publication, internet, media, etc.)

II. Cheating

- Copying from another student's work during an assessment
- Communicating answers to others during an assessment
- Bringing unpermitted, outside information to an assessment

III. Plagiarism

- Passing off someone else's work as your own by failing to acknowledge the source

IV. Collusion

- Supporting the academic malpractice of another student, as in allowing the copying of materials related to homework, assessment, or other

Roles & Responsibilities



The academically honest student DOES:

- His/her own work
- Acknowledges outside help
- Properly cites direct quotations
- Acknowledges/cites information taken from published sources
- Abides by the school's academic honesty policy
- Alerts school faculty to peers who are practicing academic dishonesty
- Engender the IB character traits to promote personal achievement

The International Baccalaureate Teacher DOES:

- Go over all expectations for the course at the beginning of the year (academic honesty and other)
- Promote a positive and equitable school & class climate that supports academic honesty
- Provide support materials regarding how to accurately cite outside sources

Roles & Responsibilities



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- Answer any questions that students may have regarding academic honesty or other topics
- Provide copies of the academic honesty policy in both English and Spanish to students and parents (if needed)

The IB Administration & Support Staff DOES:

- Actively support academic honesty, while promoting a positive school culture and providing needed resources for student success

The IB parent DOES:

- Show support for the school's academic honesty policy
- Answer any questions their child might have about the academic honesty policy
- Monitor student's work in the home (responsible computer use, homework, projects, etc.)
- Communicate regularly with teachers regarding any questions or concerns related to the academic honesty policy or other topic

Consequences of Academic Misconduct



The consequences that accompany instances of academic misconduct will be evaluated on a case by case basis. The teacher in each classroom plays an important role in determining the course of action to be taken, realizing that some instances are unintentional and can be treated as “teachable moments” while other instances are not. After all proactive measures have been performed (research and citation training, digital citizenship and media training, dissemination of the school policies and procedures, etc.) the consequences that can be assigned in regards to copying, cheating, plagiarism, and/or collusion include one or more of the following:

- A written IB reflection which needs to be signed by parents
- A written apology to the teacher
- Completion of the assignment as the student’s own work (for full, partial, or no credit)
- A grade of “0” on the assignment
- A parent phone call or email
- Involvement of the School Administration (depending on the number & severity of offenses)
- Suspension and/or a revoked invitation to attend VMMS as an enrolled student

Student Academic Honesty Agreement



Code of Ethics:

I. I will complete all academic activities, designs, and projects assigned during the course of the class while avoiding academic misconduct

II. I will act responsibly by:

- Turning in work on time
- Recognizing that learning is my responsibility
- Doing Individual and group activities with the quality expected by _____
- Respecting agreements, dates, and schedules established by teachers and peers to complete individual and collaborative assignments
- Study mandatory materials (lectures, videos, etc.) according to a pre-established calendar
- Achieve and maintain high standards modeled after the IB character traits as I grow as a student-scholar

III. I will act honestly and in accordance with the IB character traits when engaging in:

- Evaluation of my peers
- Self-evaluation
- Individual and collaborative group work
- Research and the act of properly citing work

IV. I will show respect and manifest a sense of belonging through my attitude concerning:

- My discourse toward other people, the school, my country, and other countries
- Established due dates
- Interactions with peers and teachers
- Cultural traditions of my country and other countries
- Providing feedback about my learning activities (when needed)

Student Signature _____

Date _____