



Joel C. Harris Middle School

Academic Honesty Policy

Philosophy

Academic honesty is the set of values and principles that support the mission of Joel C. Harris Middle School

... to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring lifelong learners who will help create a better world through multicultural understanding and respect

For students, these values and principles serve to promote personal integrity, protect the ideas and work of others, and ensure that all students have an equal opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills.

Within the IB program, academic honesty is reflected and encouraged in the attributes of the learner profile:

- communicators express ideas and information confidently
- inquirers acquire the skills necessary to conduct inquiry and research
- knowledgeable explore concepts, ideas and issues
- thinkers make reasoned, ethical decisions
- principled act with integrity and honesty, take responsibility for their actions
- open-minded seek and evaluate a range of points of view
- reflective reflect on their own learning and experience

What Is Academic Honesty?

Academic honesty involves using one's own resources, including his or her knowledge, understanding, and skills, to complete assessments or other assignments in all subject groups.



Written or other work must always be authentic.

It must be based on a student's own efforts and original ideas. If the ideas of others are used for or included in the work, they should be fully and appropriately cited.

Displaying Academic Honesty

A student at Joel C. Harris Middle School can demonstrate academic honesty by---

- understanding the different forms of academic **dishonesty** (see next page);
- abiding by the rules set forth by the classroom teacher, school, and district to prevent academic dishonesty;
- completing his or her own work;
- performing one's responsibilities during collaborative activities;
- citing properly the ideas, words, graphics, and/or the artistic expression of others;
- acknowledging help from parents, friends, or other students;
- refusing to participate in the cheating or the dishonest conduct of others.

Forms of Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes five general types of activity, which are described briefly below. Academic dishonesty, which includes lying and any other deceptive activity, is not limited to the following examples:

- **cheating** – using or attempting to use materials, information, notes, study aids, or other assistance that have not been authorized by the teacher during an assessment or other assignment; copying another student's work to turn in as one's own, with or without their knowledge; forgery on any type of school document for another student

- **plagiarism** – stealing or passing off as one’s own the ideas or words of another without proper citation
- **misuse of intellectual property** – using copyrighted images or materials in performances or presentations
- **dishonest conduct** – stealing or attempting to steal an assessment or answer key from a teacher; submitting all or portions of the same work for credit in more than one class without consulting all teachers involved
- **collusion** – assisting or attempting to assist another person in any act of academic dishonesty



An IB student is always principled and will report incidents of academic dishonesty to a teacher or other school staff member.

Teachers’ Role in Research

All Joel C. Harris Middle School teachers should provide student support for academic honesty through the MYP approaches to learning, as well as acknowledge that they share the responsibility of reinforcing best practices and teaching proper research skills.

Since teachers recognize that not every attempt of academic dishonesty is an intentional attempt to present another person’s idea as one’s own, teachers should take proactive measures to inform and teach learners preventative measures. Specifically, students are given an opportunity to properly cite sources and correct their work if academic dishonesty is detected.

In doing so, we recognize a “teachable moment” rather than a “gotcha” approach, which prevents future acts of academic dishonesty.

Consequences of Academic Dishonesty

When a student is in violation of the academic honesty policy for an assessment, assignment, or other activity, teachers will follow these steps:

1. The teacher and a school counselor will conference with the student to discuss the incident.
2. If a violation of the policy did occur, the student will receive a reduced grade or a grade of zero for the assessment or other work, at the discretion of the teacher.
3. The teacher will document the incident on a discipline referral and give it to the appropriate administrator; the student will receive a consequence according to District policy and the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified by an administrator.

*I have read and understand Joel C. Harris Middle School’s **Academic Honesty Policy**.*

Student Name: _____ Parent Signature: _____

Homeroom Teacher: _____