Westward Academic Integrity Policy Perspective

Revised December 21,2023

Academic Integrity is students taking responsibility for completing their work on their own and doing their personal best while working independently or collaboratively. Also, completing all assignments with honesty and integrity, following the directions of their teacher.

What is our purpose?

- To make certain that students work is their own personal best
- To ensure that all stakeholders have a clear understanding of the expectations of academic integrity

What are our guiding principles?

- Students are responsible for producing authentic individual and group work
- Students are responsible for citing resources, when acknowledging the work of others
- Students use of technology responsibly
- Students maintain ethical and honest practice during assessments
- What are our essential agreements?

What are our practices?

- Share what academic integrity means to all stakeholders
- Teach the proper ways to acknowledge the works of others
- Communicate clearly when academic integrity is in question and reteach skills when necessary
- Hold students accountable for their academic actions

School Responsibilities

- Provide a safe place for students by assisting them as they develop their inquiry skills, take appropriate risk, and learn from their mistakes while engaging in authentic learning

- The school depends on partnerships with community partners, parents, teachers, the school community and the scholars to educate children on the ethics and values of academic honesty

Staff Responsibilities

- To provide opportunities for our students to develop and produce authentic and original work.
- To educate students on citation and research procedures on what constitutes misuse or plagiarism
- To provide instruction in self-management, social awareness, communication techniques, critical thinking and ethical research skills
- To teach academic honesty and model good practice
- Administration support staff with academic honesty and integrity

Parent and Community Responsibilities

- Support academic policy which will enhance students' learning as they strive to produce work that adheres to ethical norms and demonstrates the use of principled behaviors
- Parents are informed of the expectations placed on students and support these practices both inside and outside the classroom
- Community members take advantage of the expertise and resources of the school media specialist when questions arise about plagiarism, copyright, or other ethical issues and food academic practice for referencing sources
- Community members collaborate under the same understanding to create an environment that promotes academic integrity and student success.

PYP Learners/Responsibilities

- Accept responsibility for my own academic actions by submitting my own ideas and work for all assignments
- Complete assignments independently with honesty and integrity
- Accept help from others, by not allow others to do my work for me
- Use information technology and library resource responsibility
- Do my personal best while working independently or collaboratively

- Give credit to other people when working independently or with others

What is Academic Honesty?

According to the IBO, academic honesty is a set of values and skills that promote personal integrity and good practice in teaching, learning, and assessment."

Academic honesty refers to:

- The production of 'authentic' pieces of work
- The acknowledgement of the original authorship and ownership of creative material
- The protection of all forms of intellectual property – which include forms of intellectual and creative expression, as well as patents, registered designs,trademarks, moral rights and copyright

What is Academic Dishonesty/Misconduct?

Academic misconduct, whether deliberate or unintentional, is defined as a behavior that results in a student gaining unfair academic advantage or a disadvantage for other members of the academic community.

Definitions of Misconduct

- *Collusion/Collaboration-* Collusion is helping another student to be dishonest by allowing one's work to be copied or submitted for assessment by another. Example: sharing information from an exam before other students have taken the same exam. Collaboration- a partnership that takes place to promote learning through equal contributions. Each student's work must be clearly acknowledged and given appropriate credit for their contribution.
- *Plagiarism-* presenting another person's work as their own, this is a breach of academic honesty and is also a criminal offense. Example: reading aloud a poem in class and claiming the student wrote the poem when it was actually written by another author.
- *Duplicating-* submitting the same piece of work for different assessment purposes within the program. Example: A student is assigned and turns in a report for their Individuals and Society class, the student then turns in the same report for another assignment in their Language and Literature class.

- *Cheating*- the use of unauthorized materials, viewing another's student's responses during an assessment.

Consequences:

Consequences for academic malpractice include, but are not limited to, resubmission of original work, loss of privileges, further restriction of assessment environment, in school suspension, out of school suspension, and/or reduction of effort grade.

Reference

IB's Academic Integrity document has been referenced in the creation of this document.

Policy Review every 2 years or as needed

Policy Committee
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