

IB Primary Years Programme Academic Honesty Policy

Background and Our Philosophy

Midland Public Schools believes that academic honesty is key to communicating and facilitating a student's acquisition of knowledge, understanding of concepts, and mastery of skills. We believe that the education of all International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme students is a collaborative effort in which all stakeholders (teachers, parents, guardians, and administration) and community members play an important role. Academic honesty will be communicated, taught, and modeled in an age-appropriate manner within Midland Public Schools.

In the 21st century, opportunities for misuse of resources and misunderstanding of expectations are significantly greater than in the past. This policy outlines the areas in which demonstrating honesty can become challenging as well as how teachers, parents, and the learners themselves can share responsibility for ensuring that all actions in support of academic honesty are transparent and consistent.

Academic honesty is embedded in the Programme standards and practices (2014).

- **Standard C3: Teaching and learning reflects IB philosophy.**
 - C3.4 Teaching and learning promotes the understanding and practice of academic honesty.
 - C3.5 Teaching and learning supports students to become actively responsible for their own learning.

How Does Academic Honesty Relate to the PYP and the Learner Profile?

Midland Public Schools strives to promote students' sense of self and regard for others. We work to develop lifelong learners, who embody the IB Learner Profile and the IB PYP Attitudes. While students are engaged in constructivist and inquiry-based learning, working on assessment tasks, using technology, and/or communicating and reflecting on their work, they are expected to demonstrate principled behavior. Independence, responsibility, and integrity are crucial in preparing students to show confidence in their own work and respect for the work of others.

Since the Learner Profile is the foundation of the Primary Years Programme, and serves as the cornerstone of the Midland Public Schools' Academic Honesty Policy, students are encouraged to be:

- **Inquirers** who acquire the skills necessary to conduct inquiry and research.
- **Knowledgeable** as they explore concepts, ideas and issues.
- **Principled** as they act with integrity, honesty and take responsibility for their actions.
- **Open-minded** as they seek and evaluate a range of points of view.
- **Risk takers** who articulate and defend their opinions and beliefs.
- **Thinkers** who make ethical decisions.
- **Communicators** who use a variety of resources to research and share their personal thinking.
- **Balanced** as they understand the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional balance.
- **Reflective** as they give careful consideration to their own learning and experiences.
- **Caring** as they show empathy, compassion and respect to the needs of others.

These qualities, when applied to learning and student work, establish skills and behaviors which support practices displayed within the classroom and in everyday life. These practices are introduced, modeled and used throughout the entire school community.

What is Academic Honesty?

Academic honesty is “a set of values and skills that promote personal integrity and good practice in teaching, learning and assessment.” Academic honesty results in respect for one another’s intellectual property and the completion of “authentic” pieces of work which are “based on [the individual’s own] original ideas with the ideas and work of others fully acknowledged.” (*Academic Honesty in the IB Educational Context*)

In the Midland Public Schools, academic honesty is the result of students showing integrity and ownership of their own work. We consistently encourage and model the practices of academic honesty while embracing the Learner Profile Attributes and Attitudes.

How do we Encourage Academic Honesty?

Midland Public Schools strives to establish a culture that actively promotes academic honesty. The teacher’s role consists of building student awareness of academic honesty, providing a safe environment, where mistakes are a part of the learning process, as well as preparing students for situations where they may encounter issues related to academic honesty. Teachers encourage students to take responsibility for their own work, to recognize the difference between individual work and group work, to reference sources according to age-appropriate formats, and to use information technology and other resources responsibly.

In addition, teachers design challenging work that goes beyond factual recall of information which results in original responses and avoids answers that can be directly copied from a variety of sources. Academic honesty is particularly critical during times of assessment. By creating assessment tasks that encourage creativity and inquiry along with using information to solve a problem, students can apply their individual learning in many ways. When students are provided choice and the ability to use information honestly to solve a problem, both the process and the result are rewarded.

What is the Role of Students in terms of Academic Honesty?

Students are expected to demonstrate principled behavior when engaging in any school activity. Students should be able to work independently and with others, with honesty and integrity, as they work toward achieving their personal best, both academically and personally.

Students are responsible for practicing the Approaches to Learning/Transdisciplinary Skills necessary to become academically honest. These skills include being organized, making appropriate choices, demonstrating integrity, and striving to do one’s personal best work. Students are expected to be responsible for their own thinking and are encouraged to use creativity when solving problems.

Students are introduced to the concepts of plagiarism and are taught age-appropriate citation skills in the elementary grades; these concepts are reinforced throughout the students' academic experiences.

When working with partners and in groups, students are expected to participate responsibly. Students are expected to be respectful of varying points of view and to interact cooperatively. Students are taught to resolve conflict by making appropriate choices to enhance relationships and facilitate success in school.

What is the Role of Information Technology Related to Academic Honesty?

Technology is used to support learning and communication between members of the learning community. Technology provides information and opportunities for collaboration between learners and disciplines. We model appropriate digital actions and encourage students to reflect on fair technology use. Modeling positive online behaviors is expected of all members of the school community.

What are Possible Issues Related to Academic Honesty?

At the elementary level and in the PYP, the focus is on the development of every child. Each student is treated as an individual using a holistic approach to address any individual circumstances. Some examples may include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, and deception.

When handling issues involving academic honesty, stakeholders will discuss opportunities and choices to make better decisions in the future. Supporting the student and helping him/her understand the importance of academic honesty is essential to the continued growth of the student.

If a student demonstrates consistent difficulty with academic honesty or portions of this policy, disciplinary action may occur appropriate to both age and circumstance. S/he will be provided with support and interventions aligned with the Midland Public Schools Code of Student Conduct.

Resource Documents :

Academic Honesty in the IB Educational Context: https://resources.ibo.org/data/g_0_malpr_sup_1408_2a_e.pdf

Lone Pine Academic Honesty Policy (2014)

Review of the Academic Honesty Policy:

This will be reviewed and updated annually by the Midland Public Schools community.

- Written March 2016
- Updated January 2017
- Updated May 2017