

Jefferson-Houston PreK-8 School

IB MYP Academic Honesty Policy

Purpose/Philosophy

Students enrolled in Jefferson-Houston PreK-8 School are expected to strive to embody the attributes of the IB Learner Profile in all aspects of their lives. To that end, Jefferson-Houston expects and encourages students to display four attributes in particular as it relates to academic honesty.

Principled: Students act with integrity and honesty, a strong sense of fairness, justice and respect for the dignity of the individual, groups and communities. They take responsibility for their own actions and the consequences with others.

Inquirers: Students develop their natural curiosity. They acquire the skills necessary to conduct inquiry and research, as well as show independence in learning.

Open-minded: Students understand and appreciate their own cultures and personal histories; and are open to the perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and communities. They are accustomed to seeking and evaluating a range of points of view, and are willing to grow from their experiences.

Reflective: Students give thoughtful consideration to their own learning and experiences. They are able to assess and understand their strengths and limitations in order to support their academic and personal development.

Definitions

According to *MYP: From Principles into Practice* (2014):

Academic misconduct is behavior that results in, or may result in, the student or any other student gaining an unfair advantage in one or more assessment components.

Academic misconduct includes:

Plagiarism – the representation, intentionally or unwittingly, of the ideas, words or work of another person without proper, clear and explicit acknowledgement

Collusion – supporting academic misconduct by another student, as in allowing one's work to be copied or submitted for assessment by another

Duplication of work – the presentation of the same work for different assessment components

Any other behavior that gives an unfair advantage to a student or that affects the results of another student (falsifying data, misconduct during an examination, creating spurious reflections.

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How Jefferson-Houston Requires Academic Honesty

At the beginning of each school year students receive the Alexandria City Public Schools Code of Conduct document. This document outlines the school board's expectations around student behavior. The ACPS Code of Conduct includes the honor code for ACPS students which defines and describes the consequences for academic dishonesty. Students and parents are required to sign and return the document as evidence that they have read and understand the policy.

The Alexandria City Public School's Code of Conduct document states, "ACPS, including its students, faculty, and leadership, is committed to honorable behavior in all aspects of the academic life of our learning community. We trust one another to act honorably in our dealings with one another while recognizing that our diversity requires that we reinforce expected behaviors in order to ensure that all of us have a common understanding of the personal honor upon which we rely. We pledge to discuss our interpretation of honor and the mutual respect that is intrinsic to a learning community.

One of the most important elements of the honor to which we are committed is the belief that cheating, plagiarism, and other examples of academic dishonesty are serious breaches of academic integrity."

To this end, students at Jefferson-Houston PreK-8 receive explicit instruction regarding legitimate collaboration versus unacceptable collusion and plagiarism. The school librarian collaborates with teachers to identify instances where she is able to lead lessons around plagiarism and conducting research.

In order to provide students with helpful instruction on how to properly cite and acknowledge original authorship, Jefferson-Houston has chosen the Modern Language Association of American (MLA) as our reference system. As part of her instruction on conducting research, the school librarian will also instruct students on how to correctly cite sources using *MLA bibliographic style*.

Throughout the school year, individual teachers review and reinforce these teachings prior to students engaging in collaborative or individual projects and research work.

The School will:

- Ensure that all teachers review ACPS's Code of Conduct with students and send home for parents to review and sign
- Keep a copy of the parent signature as a receipt that they are aware of the guidelines and consequences
- Ensure that all teachers are aware of Jefferson-Houston's Academic Honesty Policy
- Promote the IB Learner Profile throughout the school year by requiring teachers to assess student behavior using the Learner Profile in addition to having students assess their level of attainment of the Learner Profile by self-assessing
- Ensure that all new teachers are trained in the principles and practices of IB Primary Year Programme and Middle Years Programme so that they understand the relationship between the Learner Profile, transdisciplinary skills, and Approaches to Teaching and Learning as they relate to academic honesty.

Teachers will:

- Reference the Learner Profile constantly throughout the school term
- Understand the abilities of their students and differentiate instruction accordingly
- Focus on developing transdisciplinary and approaches to learning skills which will aid in providing the confidence that students need to share their authentic work
- Teach students how to properly conduct research via the World Wide Web and cite sources using the MLA format
- Provide exemplars around the ways in which research should be conducted

Students will:

- Read and sign ACPS's Code of Conduct
- Engage in lessons centering around plagiarism and citing information and sources using MLA style given by the school librarian
- Seek help from teachers or the school librarian when not clear on how to properly cite sources
- Self-assess or work with teachers to assess their intrinsic understanding of the Learner Profile
- Report any academic dishonesty they may observe