

Old High School - Academic Honesty Policy

Honesty is an important personal attribute but it is more than just a nice thing to be known for; to be honest is to be principled, worthy of others trust and respected.

At Olds High School we expect that students will be honest and trustworthy. You are what you do; your actions define you. Being honest and fair and principled is absolutely important to your reputation.

From time to time cases of academic dishonesty arise and must be dealt with. This is important to maintain a fair playing field for everyone but also to reinforce the beliefs and values of our learning community. To be clear: academic dishonesty is never acceptable and is in fact a very serious offense. The two most common forms of academic dishonesty are cheating (obviously) and plagiarism (often a confusing concept). Neither of these is acceptable but no matter what you call it, dishonesty and fraud are never tolerable. Cheating is obvious, plagiarism is a bit trickier so it's important to understand it and refrain from accidentally being fraudulent.

Cheating is any form of deceitfulness in your work:

- Looking at a classmate's test
- Passing answers
- Bringing cheating resources into a test
- Using your phone in an exam
- Taking credit for anything that you did not complete:
 - Handing in an assignment that your friend did for you
 - Handing in an assignment that you copied off the internet
 - Handing in an assignment that you bought
 - Handing in that assignment your sister/brother/friend did last year (or 3 years ago)

Cheating is so sad. It basically says "I give up on myself." It signals that you don't care, don't want to learn, don't mind stealing, and are not interested in your reputation.

Plagiarism is academic fraud; it means taking credit for someone else's intellectual property.

Plagiarism can occur with intent or by accident, for example:

- You "borrow" an idea from a book or website without giving credit to the text creator
- You do not have appropriate footnotes or you skip the important step of including footnotes
- You mistakenly think that listing a website (or a bunch of websites) allows you to 'cut and paste'
- You pirate ideas and hide the fact that they are not your original work

Everyone should review the excellent plagiarism resource at <http://plagiarism.org/>

Academic dishonesty is very serious. In post-secondary you can be kicked out of school for this offence! In the professional world you can be sued! Here at OHS you may be suspended and you will receive a zero for the assignment that you have plagiarized. You will also lose the respect of your teachers and fellow students...

Be honest, be principled, be trustworthy; be proud of yourself and your work 😊