

Olds High School

Academic Honesty Policy

hon·es·ty
[on-uh-stee]

noun, plural hon-es-ties.

1. the quality or fact of being honest; uprightness and fairness.
2. truthfulness, sincerity, or frankness.
3. freedom from deceit or fraud.

<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/honesty>

Obviously honesty is an important personal attribute but its more than just a nice thing to be known for. To be honest is to be principled. Without this attribute you will never be taken seriously, never worthy of others trust, never truly independent.

At Olds High School we expect – no, we demand – that students be honest and trustworthy. You are what you do; your actions define you. So, being honest and fair and principled is important to you, to your friends and teachers, to you learning community, to your reputation.

From time to time cases of dishonesty arise and must be dealt with. This is important to maintain a fair playing field for everyone but also to reinforce our beliefs and values regarding honesty and trust. 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, fraud, lying, is never tolerable.

To guard against becoming caught in the web of academic deceit you must be aware of the following offenses. More importantly, you must be honest with yourself. Do no put yourself in a position to fall into the murky world of cheating. Do your own work; leave enough time to complete assignments (set some goals, don't procrastinate); ask for help when you need it (before it's too late); never 'borrow' work and pass it off as your own; learn how to properly cite resources; be proud of your authentic work.

The two most common forms of academic dishonesty are cheating and plagiarism. Cheating is obvious, plagiarism is a bit trickier so it's important to understand it and refrain from accidentally being fraudulent.

Cheating

Cheating is any form of deceitfulness in your work.

- Looking at a classmates test
- Passing answers
- Bringing cheating resources into a test
- Taking credit for anything that you did not complete
 - Handing in an assignment that you bought
 - Handing in an assignment that your friend did for you
 - Handing in an assignment that you copied off the internet
 - Handing in that assignment your sister did 3 years ago
 - You get the idea...

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

Plagiarism is a form of fraud. Plagiarism is unprincipled; it means taking credit for someone else’s work.

Plagiarism can happen by accident

- You “borrow” an idea from a book or website that you have read and forget to give credit to the creator of that idea.
- You do not have appropriate footnotes or you skip the important step of including footnotes

Or

Plagiarism can occur with intent:

- You borrow an idea and hide the fact that it is not your original work
- You copy something and pass it off as your own work
- You are too lazy to complete proper citation (footnotes)
- You use someone else’s work and put your name on it

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 college for this offence! In the professional world you can be sued! Here at OHS you will 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😊