

Sayville Middle School Student Contract

A Statement of Commitment
to
Academic Integrity & Honesty

The goal of this contract is to foster academic integrity and honesty.

Sayville Middle School students are expected to adhere to the following policy and to assume responsibility for maintaining academic integrity and honesty.

You are compromising your integrity if you cheat, facilitate cheating, or plagiarize. Cheating and/or facilitating cheating includes but is not limited to:

1. Copying or aiding someone on homework, quizzes, tests, or exams.
2. Keeping formulas, codes, key words or objects on your person for use on a test, unless directed to do so by the teacher.
3. Using hidden reference sheets on a test.
4. Using programmed material in watches or calculators, when prohibited.
5. Exchanging answers with others (either giving or receiving answers) when prohibited.
6. Copying someone else's assignments and submitting it as your own, or allowing someone to copy your assignment.
7. Using papers or other work acquired from the Internet or other sources when prohibited.
8. Working with another person (student, friend, family member, tutor, etc.) on any assignment when such sharing of effort or work is prohibited.

Plagiarism is defined as presenting the work of another without giving proper credit and/or acknowledgement to the original author(s) or source.

One HUGE misconception that students have is that rewriting something is not plagiarism, because they are "putting it in their own words." However, if the source is not officially acknowledged, IT IS PLAGIARISM. Copying and pasting actually accounts for only a small percentage of plagiarism. The majority of plagiarism is a result of text manipulation. The accessibility of the Internet makes plagiarism very tempting, and unintentional plagiarism springs from this as well. Simply stated, plagiarism is using someone's work without giving the appropriate credit. This can mean several things.

1. Copying and pasting text from on-line media, such as encyclopedias is plagiarism.

- 2. Copying and pasting text from any website is plagiarism
- 3. Transcribing text from any printed material, such as books, magazines, encyclopedias or newspapers, is plagiarism.
- 4. Simply modifying text from any of the above sources is plagiarism.

For example, replacing a few select words using a Thesaurus does not constitute original work.

- 5. Using photographs, video or audio without permission or acknowledgment is plagiarism.

You may use such a photographic, video or audio source with or in a paper or multimedia presentation that you create, as long as you do not profit from it or use it for any purpose other than the original assignment. You must include the source in your bibliography.

- 6. Using another student’s work and claiming it as your own, *even with permission*, is academically unethical and is treated as plagiarism. This is known as “collusion”.

- 7. Acquiring work from commercial sources is academically unethical and is treated as plagiarism.

- 8. Translation from one language to another is not using your own words. Translations fall under the guidelines for quotations, summaries and paraphrasing. (See Style Guide)

- 9. Using an essay that you wrote for another class/another purpose without getting permission from the teacher/professor of both the current class and the class for which the original work was used is SELF-PLAGIARISM. You may use your previous work as a basis for new research of course, but include the original work in your bibliography.

We acknowledge that we have read and we understand this contract. Your English teacher will distribute the Sayville Middle School “Form and Style Guide” to you in September. The “Form and Style Guide” will also be available on the Middle School web page in September. (www.sayville.k23.ny.us)

Failure to adhere to this statement of commitment will result in the academic penalties outlined in each class and the Middle School Code of Conduct.

Signature of student

Signature of Parent

Date

Date

We acknowledge the assistance of Commack Middle School and the University of Central Michigan in creating this document.

Sayville Middle School
Student Contract
Parent Copy

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Please retain this copy for your records.