



Sawyer Road Elementary School

Academic Integrity Policy

Rationale

The vision of Marietta City Schools is for all students to learn to their fullest potential. The district mission states, "In partnership with families and the community our mission is to prepare each student to maximize career, college, and life opportunities." Both the vision and the mission of the district embrace the belief that all students should have opportunities to participate in and benefit from educational programs. The MCS IB programs are committed to developing ethical citizens and leaders who are prepared for the 21st century. Vital to this is promoting academic integrity within all students.

Sawyer Road Supports the district and IB mission to develop students who display integrity in all they do including Academics.

At Sawyer Road, Academic Integrity develops in our students at an early age. We believe that:

- **Early Development of Core Values:** Introducing academic integrity at a young age helps children develop a strong sense of right and wrong. This foundation promotes lifelong habits of honesty, trustworthiness, and ethical behavior.
- **Character Formation:** By learning the importance of academic integrity, students internalize values that contribute to their character development and become responsible citizens.
- **Encourages Authentic Work:** A policy focused on academic integrity helps ensure that students understand the value of producing their own work, thus reinforcing learning and comprehension over rote copying or shortcuts.
- **Developing Problem-Solving Skills:** When students are motivated to complete their work without resorting to dishonesty, they enhance their critical thinking and problem-solving skills, leading to deeper learning.
- **Reducing Incidences of Cheating:** Implementing an academic integrity policy helps set clear expectations and discourages dishonest practices like copying, plagiarism, or unauthorized assistance.
- **Early Intervention:** Identifying and addressing issues related to academic dishonesty at an early age makes it easier to correct behaviors and reinforce positive actions before they become ingrained habits.



- **Fosters a Safe Learning Environment:** A strong policy helps create an atmosphere where students can trust that their peers are evaluated fairly. This reduces resentment and competition fueled by dishonest behavior.
- **Building Teacher-Student Trust:** When students adhere to an academic integrity policy, teachers can trust that grades and assessments accurately reflect the students' true abilities and efforts.
- **Foundation for Later Academic Success:** Introducing academic integrity at the elementary level prepares students for higher educational settings where such policies are often stricter and come with more severe consequences.
- **Long-Term Benefits:** Students who understand and value academic integrity are more likely to excel in future academic and professional environments where honesty and originality are highly prized.
- **Ownership of Learning:** A focus on academic integrity emphasizes that students are responsible for their own education. This encourages a sense of personal achievement and self-worth as they see the results of their honest efforts.
- **Encouragement to Seek Help:** When academic integrity is emphasized, students may feel more encouraged to seek help from teachers or peers instead of resorting to dishonest means, fostering a supportive and collaborative learning environment.
- **Alignment with School Mission:** Our academic integrity policy supports the school's mission of fostering well-rounded, ethical individuals who contribute positively to their communities.
- **Parental and Community Trust:** Upholding strong academic values boosts confidence among parents and the wider community in the school's dedication to nurturing honest, capable learners.

Definitions of Academic Misconduct

Malpractice:

The IB Organization defines malpractice as behavior that results in, or may result in, the candidate or any other candidate gaining an unfair advantage in one or more assessment components.

Academic Misconduct:

The IB organization defines academic misconduct as behavior (whether deliberate or inadvertent) that results in, or may result in, the candidate or any other candidate gaining an unfair advantage in one or more components of assessment.



<u>Plagiarism:</u>	The IB organization defines this as the representation, intentionally or unwittingly, of the ideas, words or work of another person without proper, clear and explicit acknowledgment.
<u>Collusion:</u>	Allowing an individual's work to be copied by another student or promoting misconduct by another student.
<u>Duplication of Work:</u>	When the same piece of work is submitted for a different assessment.
<u>Facilitating Academic Dishonesty:</u>	The intentional help, or attempt to help, another student to violate any provision of this Code.

Roles and Responsibilities

<u>School:</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Create the academic integrity policy and foster a school environment where it is promoted and expected.2. Communicate clearly about what academic misconduct is and make students aware of the consequences.
<u>Teacher:</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Teach effective practices to implement the school's academic integrity policy.2. Demonstrate appropriate practices through instruction and activities.3. Work with students to confirm that all tasks are original work (and remediate when necessary).
<u>Students:</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Turn in original work and properly acknowledge sources in accordance with assignment directions.2. Review work before submission to ensure that all ideas have been documented and all sources cited.3. Ensure in collaborative work that everyone's contribution is reflected.

Education, Guidance and Support:



Sawyer Road will focus on developing and supporting best practices of academic integrity.

Staff will model and check for understanding of best practices with all students.

Students will...

- Cite work
- Reference sources
- Recognize and understand the importance of citing sources
- Create original works and not copy the works of others
- Contribute equally with group-based tasks
- Not allow another student to copy their work
- Refrain from behaviors that give an unfair advantage (e.g. notes on a test, cheat sheets, acquiring information on a test ahead of time, etc.)
- Use AI ethically to support schoolwork

Possible Consequences of Academic Misconduct:

- Discipline referral sent to appropriate administrator.
- Notification to parents and teachers.
- Administrative conference with student.
- Other consequences as appropriate, which range from detention to out-of-school suspension.

Sources:

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