



Birchwood Elementary Academic Integrity Policy



Birchwood Elementary Mission Statement

At Birchwood Elementary School we strive to develop knowledgeable, skilled, compassionate, principled, and action-oriented young people. We want Birchwood students to become internationally-minded individuals who help create a better world.

To that end, we commit ourselves to:

- Honor diversity and individuality in a safe learning environment
- Build an inclusive community where students, families, and staff collaborate with each other to help students realize their academic, creative, social, and physical potential.
- Act with integrity and honesty
- Take on new challenges, learn to be resourceful and resilient, and use these skills to become lifelong learners.
- Become caring, compassionate, and respectful people who have a global understanding of the world.
- Make balanced and healthy choices in our lives to achieve well-being for ourselves and others.
- Develop teamwork skills and share our learning with others.

<https://birchwood.bellinghamschools.org/our-school/>

Academic Integrity Philosophy

At Birchwood we consider academic integrity a core component of our holistic approach to developing student agency. Students are encouraged and supported in making principled choices in all realms of their educational and personal lives. We encourage students to be caring, principled, thinkers in everything they do.

As part of our program of inquiry, students develop a layered understanding of academic integrity. They show their understanding by giving credit to others' work, ideas, and creations, regardless of the scenario or situation. This is discussed and developed in individual classrooms as well as during specialist's classes, lessons with guest instructors, and in partnership with families.

All adults at Birchwood play an active role in coaching and guiding students by modeling academic integrity.

If an incident of academic integrity is in question, we use a collaborative problem-solving approach to develop shared trust, respect, and personal responsibility. This means giving the individual an opportunity to be a part of the resolution. If a member of the community is struggling with academic integrity, it is viewed as an opportunity to grow with support.

Academic Integrity Practices		
Assessments	Student Work	Technology and Digital Citizenship
Teachers and students understand and can communicate expectations and guidelines for assessments. Our learning community believes assessments are tools to guide learning in partnership with families. Our focus is knowing our strengths and goals so we can co-develop SEL and academic next steps. Rubrics and assessments for student work reflect a philosophical focus on process over product.	Students give credit to others and any resources utilized. Students take credit for their own contributions and use self-assessment to intentionally reflect on their work. Teachers and students monitor and assess group work to ensure shared responsibility and academic integrity for all involved. Student agency, multiple access points for learning, and flexibility with learning goals and outcomes support a culture of authenticity.	All adults involved in students learning work to ensure students' use of technology reflects the Bellingham Healthy Technology Promise. The Promise focuses on developing a healthy relationship to technology, including digital citizenship and self-management. Teachers and our Library Media Specialist teach students how to cite sources and why it's important. The Library Media Specialist and Instructional Coach review the district technology Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) which aligns to The Promise and includes expectations for academic and digital integrity. Students commit to these expectations each school year. The LMS uses Common Sense Media and other sources to teach Digital Citizenship to all students, every school year.