



Northern Heights Elementary School IB-Primary Years Program Academic Integrity Policy



Northern Heights' Mission

Northern Heights Elementary School provides a balanced, engaging, and comprehensive education that prepares all students for success as global citizens. We strive to develop caring, principled individuals with a sense of community, who value individual differences and diverse perspectives. As reflective thinkers and inquirers, we are inspired to take actions that positively contribute to our ever-changing world.

Academic Integrity Philosophy

At Northern Heights 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 Northern Heights 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 honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. This includes 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

- 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.

Student Work

- 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.

Technology and Digital Citizenship

- 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.
- One support for our collaborative problem-solving approach is the ["Student Technology Use Make it Right Form."](#)

Academic Integrity Policy Review Process

The Academic Integrity Policy is a working document that will require review and revision as development and implementation of the PYP progresses.

We will review the school's Academic Integrity Policy annually in the spring of each school year. We will determine whether our Inclusion Policy accurately reflects current practice. If it does not reflect current practice, we will determine whether we need to alter our practices or the policy and make the necessary changes.

Subsequent revisions will be completed for implementation by August of each following school year.

Review of the Academic Integrity Policy will be a collaborative process, involving all stakeholders (grade level teachers, specialist teachers, support staff, family/community, IB Coordinator, administration).

We will reach a consensus to support and implement all aspects of the Academic Integrity Policy at the time of the review.

Reviewed Northern Heights Staff: 4/11/24