



Thayer Academy

GUIDANCE AROUND STUDENT USE OF AI TOOLS

Thayer is committed to safely and effectively supporting students' use of AI tools to become even more deeply engaged learners who are *known*, *connected*, and *prepared* for the future. In all matters related to Thayer, students will be supported, trained, and expected to use AI tools responsibly, ethically, and with a critical eye.

Through collaboration, feedback and ongoing research, development, and experimentation, the expectations and guidance for using AI at Thayer will continue to evolve over time. We will navigate these changing realities in ongoing dialogue and partnership among teachers, students, families, and staff. The spirit and practice of such partnership is central to learning excellence and academic integrity.

Regarding student AI use for Thayer academics and other programs, we offer the following:

GUIDING EXPECTATIONS:

- 1. AI tools should be used for educational purposes** in manners consistent with Thayer's policies (including the student handbook), values, mission, and AI literacy training.
- 2. Students should follow the instructions of their teachers** with regard to the use and citation of AI (including generative AI) for assignments, assessments, applications, and other work with academic implications.
- 3. Teachers and students should work in partnership to ensure clarity and understanding of instructions and expectations.** While teachers are responsible for clarifying appropriate or prohibited uses of AI tools and the rationale for those decisions, students are expected to review all instructions and ask teachers for guidance when uncertain or confused
- 4. Students are responsible for the content of schoolwork they turn in.** They are encouraged to review and "fact-check" their work before submitting and to consult their teachers for guidance.
- 5. Using AI to generate answers or complete assignments without proper citation or passing off AI-generated content as one's own is considered plagiarism.** As always, all schoolwork is subject to review by Thayer for originality, accuracy, and compliance with teacher instructions and expectations for academic integrity.

LIMITATIONS OF AI

While AI tools can be valuable resources, they have limitations, including:

- **Accuracy:** AI-generated content may include incorrect, misleading, or fabricated information.
- **Bias:** AI tools may reflect and unintentionally reinforce biases present in their training data (e.g., racial, gender, cultural, or socio-economic biases).
- **Perspective:** AI may not present balanced or complete viewpoints.

Thus, students **are strongly encouraged** to:

- Review, critically assess, and verify outputs from AI tools using trusted sources before submission or dissemination.
- Never rely solely on AI-generated content without review.
- If unsure about the reliability of AI output, consult teachers.

SAFETY AND PRIVACY

- **DATA PRIVACY/SAFETY** - The safety and well-being of our students, families, and employees, including the privacy of student information and personal data, are our top priority. In a pilot program for the 2025-26 school year, Thayer will specifically support student use of the generative AI platform [Magic School](#). This platform was chosen for its pedagogical value and for its current data privacy policies (with the understanding that no privacy policies are perfect). Relevant Magic School privacy/security policies can be found at the following links: [MS Privacy Policy](#), [MS Student Data Policy](#), [MS Student Data Privacy Addendum](#).

Thayer has chosen Magic School for any required student use of generative AI. Students are not prohibited from independently using other generative AI tools appropriately (unless instructed otherwise by their teachers or school administration).

Please note: other AI tools may not adhere to data privacy or other safety standards supported by Thayer.

- **PERSONAL INFORMATION** - All community members at Thayer, including students, should **not** include personal, sensitive, or confidential information about themselves or others when utilizing **ANY** AI system.

This includes, but is not limited to, any data related to student education records, a person's name, address, email address, phone number, Social Security number, or other personally

identifiable information. Questions regarding this topic should be directed to Assistant Head for Academics Peter Brooks.

- **STUDENT CONDUCT** - Use of AI for malicious purposes or in ways that violate Thayer's policies, values, or norms will not be tolerated. This includes the creation of AI-generated deceptive images, video, audio, or documents (such as "deepfakes"). Any student use of AI for such purposes, including to create false accusations or impersonations of others, can lead to serious consequences and will involve the student disciplinary process.