



Bearden Middle School West High School
International Baccalaureate Programs
Academic Integrity Policy
September 2024 Update



Overview

The International Baccalaureate (IB) defines academic integrity as a guiding principle in education and a choice to act in a responsible way whereby others can have trust in us as individuals. It is the foundation for ethical decision-making and behavior in the production of legitimate, authentic and honest scholarly work.

Bearden Middle School and West High School, in accordance with the IB, support a “strong line” on academic integrity to:

- maintain fairness;
- maintain trust and credibility; and
- develop respect for others.

Student Expectations and Responsibilities

IB students will:

- develop and practice the IB learner profile attribute of being principled: *acting with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere and taking responsibility for one's own actions and their consequences.*
- ask for academic support from parents, teachers, and/or the IB program coordinator when needed
- exhibit balanced behavior when working in collaboration with others
- submit work that is authentic and genuine
- respond to and report acts of student misconduct
- complete all assignments, tasks, examinations, and quizzes in an honest manner and to the best of ability
- give credit to used sources in all work submitted to the IB for assessment in written and oral materials and/or artistic products
- abstain from receiving non-permitted assistance in the completion or editing of work, such as from friends, relatives, other students, private tutors, essay writing or copy-editing services, pre-written essay banks or file sharing websites
- abstain from giving undue assistance to peers in the completion of their work
- show a responsible use of the internet and social media platforms

At Bearden Middle School and West High School, students work to increase their academic potential while educators, parents, and community members foster a belief in and a commitment to their holistic growth. Understanding and practicing academic integrity is important to these processes.

The principles of academic integrity should be reviewed and valued by all stakeholders of the Knox County Schools IB program continuum, including but not limited to students, educators, parents, and members of the local community. It is the goal that these principles remain with each student throughout their participation in the IB program and beyond.

Academic Misconduct

IB defines academic misconduct as ***deliberate or inadvertent behavior that has the potential to result in the student, or anyone else, gaining an unfair advantage in one or more components of assessment.*** It also includes any act that potentially threatens the integrity of IB examinations and assessments that happens before, during or after the completion of the assessment or examination, paper-based or on-screen.

Academic misconduct includes, but is not necessarily limited to:

- **plagiarism:** the representation, intentionally or unintentionally, of the ideas, words or work of another person without proper, clear and explicit acknowledgment
- **peer plagiarism:** copying work from another student, or lending or facilitating another's work
- **collusion:** close similarity of coursework when working collaboratively with others
- submitting work commissioned by, edited by, or obtained from a third party, including AI
- inclusion of inappropriate, offensive, or obscene material
- **duplication of work:** full or partial reuse of materials for different subjects or assessments
- **falsification of data:** presentation of fabricated data

Category	Description	Student sanctions
Coursework	• receiving assistance from others beyond what is recommended in the subject guidelines during the completion of a piece of work, that not everyone has at their disposal • obtaining support through resources available on the internet, including artificial intelligence/ Chat GPT • duplicating work of others • short-cutting work by using previously-submitted work for another IB subject • 40-50+ consecutive words with incomplete acknowledgment of copied source and/or attempt to cite the copied source • failing to report an incident of academic misconduct	Initial offense • discussion with teacher and/or IB programme coordinator about the nature of the misconduct and violation of academic integrity policy; parent contact regarding incident • deduction of value of grade of assignment relating to the misconduct, at teacher's discretion Subsequent offense(s) • award mark of E or 0 for plagiarized work • parent contact • school discipline report; school discipline penalty • discussion/penalty from Head of School with input from the teacher and/or IB programme coordinator

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Category	Description	Student sanctions, as instructed by the IB
Examinations	• possession of banned items such as notes, phones, or other IT equipment • exhibiting disruptive behavior • writing offensive/obscene/irrelevant comments • assisting other students at the same or a different school • irresponsible use of social media as related to exams • repeated noncompliance with invigilator's (proctor's) instructions • exchanging verbal or written information from other students during examination • removal of secure materials • impersonating an IB candidate • gaining access to an IB examination before its scheduled time • assisting other students in academic misconduct • failing to report an incident of academic misconduct	School must submit evidence to the relevant IB department. • Warning letter to student • Zero marks for component • No grade for subject(s) concerned • No grade for "parallel" subjects assessed during the same date/time

IB's full Academic Integrity policy can be found at:

<https://www.ibo.org/contentassets/76d2b6d4731f44ff800d0d06d371a892/academic-integrity-policy-english.pdf>



Name _____ Date _____

IB Program (circle one): Career-related Programme Diploma Programme Middle Years Programme

- ✓ I have read and reviewed the Academic Integrity policy with my caregivers.
- ✓ I understand that I may not give or receive any unauthorized assistance with any assignment submitted to IB subjects/courses, or with IB exams.
- ✓ I understand that there are consequences for incidents of Academic Misconduct.

Signature _____