315 McFarland Boulevard East Suite M., Tuscaloosa, AL 35404 | Phone: 205-759-3653 | Fax: 205-759-3784

Tuscaloosa Magnet Schools – Middle
Academic Integrity Policy
**** Latest Revision: April 2026***

Our Mission Statement and Beliefs:

The mission of the Tuscaloosa Magnet Schools is to motivate students to discover knowledge, create a better world, and serve in a way that respects others.

Our mission statement reflects the academic and interpersonal goals we have for all students and staff. Our goal as educators at the Magnet is to foster and nurture a love of learning through inquiry and service to others. Inherent in our mission statement is the belief that students, faculty, staff, and parents will lead a life that is **principled**, an IB Learner Profile trait that should guide and direct one's actions in all that we do. **To be principled is to act with integrity and reflects its five fundamentals: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility.** Being principled is the foundation upon which all other attributes of the learner are built; therefore, an academic integrity policy forms from an agreement among all school stakeholders. We pledge that during Advisory/FOCUS/subject area classes, Club Days, extracurriculars, monthly Library/Media lessons, on field trips, and at home all stakeholders will promote, teach, discuss, and model what it means to be academically honest as it relates to the following skill sets*:

Personal Skills: having integrity and possessing confidence in one's own work; willing to work independently; learning self-reflection and self-evaluation skills; meeting deadlines; having a determination to achieve one's learning goals and potential

Social Skills: working collaboratively; possessing an ability to contribute positively to a group or team; acknowledging work by other group or team members; learning to critique or evaluate others' work objectively and constructively

Technical/Research Skills: knowing how and when to acknowledge others' ideas, work, physical skills, and techniques; knowing which sources of information should be formally acknowledged and what constitutes plagiarism; learning how to construct bibliographies; learning how to cite/reference all sources correctly

- ***Academic Integrity Policy revision takes place regularly, at the beginning of each academic year. It is reviewed and updated by the faculty of Tuscaloosa Magnet Schools – Middle in our whole-school faculty meetings and reflects the input from parent and school district stakeholders. Our policies are available for review on our school website: https://www.tuscaloosacityschools.com/Page/2000***

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Academic Integrity Offenses and Actions:

Offenses include, but are not limited to:
• copying classmates' homework • allowing others to copy one's homework • allowing parents/family members/guardians/friends to complete one's assignments • talking during tests • looking at others' answers during tests • using "cheat sheets" or one's body (hands, arms) to record answers for assessments • using "code noises" to alert classmates regarding answers • using technology such as cell phones, e-readers, tablets, translators, Chromebook web searches during tests • using calculators improperly • plagiarizing text or online sources • using AI (such as **ChatGPT**) to complete homework, classwork, essays, and reports • informing classmates about assessments

Offenses and Actions to be Taken	
Action for First Offense:	Zero on assignment and parent contact
Action for Second Offense:	Zero on assignment, parent contact, and principal referral
Action for Third Offense:	Zero on assignment, parent contact, and one-day detention or suspension, as determined by administration

I, _____, as a Tuscaloosa Magnet Schools – Middle IB World School student, pledge to uphold the Academic Integrity policy.

I, _____, as a Tuscaloosa Magnet Schools – Middle IB World School faculty/staff member, pledge to uphold the Academic Integrity policy.

I, _____, as a Tuscaloosa Magnet Schools – Middle IB World School parent/guardian, pledge to uphold the Academic Integrity policy.