



Bob Lanier Middle School

A Vanguard Magnet and International Baccalaureate World School

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Honesty Purpose

An environment that celebrates academic honesty is essential to the success of any academic program. It is the responsibility of every student, teacher, administrator, and parent associated with Lanier Middle School to ensure that academic honesty is promoted and maintained through all MYP courses offered at Lanier Middle School. "Academic honesty must be seen as a set of values and skills that promote personal integrity and good practice in teaching, learning, and assessment. It is influenced and shaped by a variety of factors including peer pressure, culture, parental expectations, role modeling, and taught skills." (IB Diploma Programme Academic Honesty, July 2011).

The IB mission statement strives to create lifelong learners who are caring and respectful while creating a better, more peaceful world. IB students shall be knowledgeable, principled thinkers according to the IB Learner Profile in order to better understand the importance of academic honesty while honoring the work and intellectual properties of others. In presenting a code of conduct based on individual integrity and ethics, the aim is to create a vision of the ideal academic community.

- **Knowledgeable** – We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring and knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.
- **Thinkers** – We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyze and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.
- **Principled** – We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.

Definitions of Academic Dishonesty

This document defines malpractice in relation to academic honesty as any behavior that results in the student (or any other students) gaining an unfair academic advantage. Malpractice includes but is not limited to:

- **Academic misconduct** – A behavior that results in or may result in the student or another student gaining an unfair advantage in one or more assignment components.
- **Authentic piece of work** – Work that is based on the student's individual and original ideas, with the ideas and work of others fully acknowledged.
- **Collaboration** – working together on a common aim with shared information, which is an open and cooperative behavior that does not result in allowing one's work to be copied or submitted for assessment by another.
- **Collusion** – when a student uses fellow learners as an unattributed source.

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- **Duplication of work** – The presentation of the same work for different assessment components and/or IB requirements.
- **Intellectual property rights** – patents, registered designs, trademarks, moral rights and copyright.
- **Paraphrasing** – The rewording of text to give meaning.
- **Plagiarism** – the representation, intentionally or unwittingly, of the ideas, words or work of another person without proper, clear and explicit acknowledgment.
- **Unauthorized material in an exam** – the use, or attempted use, or possession of content aides during an exam.

Roles and Responsibilities

As a matter of personal integrity, it is ultimately the responsibility of the student to ensure that the highest level of academic honesty is always maintained. It is the responsibility of the school to provide an environment that promotes academic integrity. When that environment is maintained, the school is then able to confirm and vouch for the academic integrity of its students and the legitimacy of its academic programs. It is the intention of Lanier Middle School to fairly assess children to determine their level of skill and knowledge to guide instruction rather than to use grades, or grading practices as a punitive measure.

It is the role of **the school** to:

- Ensure communication about the policy to parents, students, and teachers.
- Promote values and skills of personal integrity and good practice in teaching, learning, and assessment. Support the development of appropriate and consistent learning opportunities to teach the awareness of misconduct and procedures in relation to academic malpractice.
- Establish procedures for alternative assessments for students that have committed academic malpractice.
- Maintain records of instances of academic malpractice and deliver appropriate consequences for each instance in consultation with the student, parent, and appropriate school personnel.

It is the role of **the media specialist/librarian** to:

- Be an invaluable resource in the training of teachers and students in copyright law and practice.
- Enables students and teachers the access required for academic endeavors through their knowledge of print and digital resources.

It is the role of **the teacher** to:

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- Be knowledgeable about the definitions related to academic honesty and teach students those definitions as relates to their discipline.
- Instruct students in the necessity and practice of paraphrasing, summarizing, quoting, and citing using appropriate formats.
- Use the skills of Approaches to Learning including self-management, social, communication, research, and thinking throughout the program to develop positive, academic practice.
- Report instances of academic malpractice to the Heads of Schools (Principal) and IB Coordinator for appropriate action to be taken with students and in notifying parents.
- Administer an equivalent, alternative assessment to determine academic mastery.

It is the role of **the student** to:

- Be knowledgeable about the definitions related to academic honesty and submit only his/her own work.
- Practice paraphrasing, summarizing, quoting, and citing using appropriate formats for various assignments.
- Use the skills of Approaches to Learning including self-management, social, communication, research, and thinking throughout the program to support positive, academic practice in themselves and their peers.

It is the role of **the parent/guardian** to:

- Be aware of the Academic Honesty Policy and guide students' understanding and adherence to the policy.
- Expect students to produce independent work that is their own intellectual property

Student Rights to Academic Dishonesty

Any case of breach of academic dishonesty will be dealt with by procedures that ensure:

- Equity
- Procedural fairness
- Academic success and enhanced character development

Consequences of Academic Dishonesty

The determination that a student had engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher or other supervising professional employee, taking into consideration written materials, observation, or information from students. If further review is needed, the case will be referred to the instructional leadership team. Lanier Middle School has a long history of high academic

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achievement. Lanier's long-standing motto, "Achievement with Honor," exemplifies the high academic standards and virtues that are so closely intertwined in a place of learning. Academic dishonesty is defined in The Code of Student Conduct as "Cheating, plagiarism, or copying the work of other students." In the event a student takes part in one or more acts of academic dishonesty he/she will incur consequences as follows:

- 1st offense: "O" on academic work, parent contact, paper on academic integrity.
- 2nd offense: "O" on academic work, parent conference; In-School Suspension Center (ISSC); Growth Plan for VG/GT students; Leadership probation.
- 3rd offense: "O" on academic work, parent conference; ISSC; Exited from VG/GT and/or Leadership program.

Academic Honesty Policy Review Process

This policy has been created using IB support materials, district data, and input from all stakeholders and shall be reviewed by all stakeholders each year to ensure continued alignment with IB and local district expectations. Newly hired teachers will be trained on assessment practices throughout the first semester of their teaching contract. Parents and students shall be made aware of this policy through normal communication channels at the beginning of each semester. This policy is communicated to staff and faculty in regular PLC meetings and team meetings.

Resources

Springwoods Village Middle School MYP Academic Integrity Policy. Accessed May 11, 2023, from <https://www.springisd.org/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=15650&dataid=26893&FileName=SVMS%20Academic%20Integrity%20Policy%20working%20copy%20for%2022-23.pdf>

Travis Science Academy IB Academic Honesty Policy. Accessed May 12, 2023, from <https://4.files.edl.io/69d7/08/06/20/035834-e8cfd602-8536-4bf5-bfab-c8cd404ca3c8.pdf>

Lanier Middle School Academic Honesty Policy

Academic honesty policy will be reviewed yearly with staff and leadership.

*Updated May 2026 by Eileen Bell, IB MYP Programme Coordinator

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