



International Baccalaureate Diploma Program Newport Harbor High School Academic Integrity Policy

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Most Recent Review: August 2026

Next Scheduled Review: June 2027

Introduction

Newport Harbor High School (NHHS) is committed to a culture of academic integrity.

At Newport Harbor High School, our core mission is to ensure that students learn content, develop skills, and become principled young adults. Integrity is one of the pillars of strong character, and we owe it to ourselves and all our fellow Sailors to be the best we can be. Honesty is essential in any search for the truth, and a schoolwide reputation for ethical conduct lifts every student on our campus.

Cheating, plagiarizing, and other forms of academic dishonesty compromise student learning and growth and thus have no place at Newport Harbor High School.

Academic Integrity

Creating a Culture of Integrity

Integrity

- Doing the right thing, even when no one is looking.
- Aligning your conduct with excellence.
- Your commitment to your values.
- Soundness of moral character.

Integrity is the foundation of long-term success.

The Goals of this Academic Integrity Framework

1. Support students in making the right choices.
2. Shift the culture of Newport Harbor to value academic integrity.
3. Offer clarity and consistency for students, parents, teachers, and administrators.
4. Eliminate incidents of academic dishonesty.

Newport Harbor encourages creative thinking and problem-solving. We promote responsible and ethical academic practices that respect the intellectual property of others and help our students develop their own unique perspectives.

Learning skills builds confidence. Understanding the world enhances our experience. These are the foundations of strong character and a joyful life.

What It Means to be a Sailor

One thing that makes Newport Harbor great is our deep history, our long-standing tradition, and our strength as a community. We have been here for nearly a century, and each of us inherits a legacy. As Sailors, it's our duty to live up to the Sailor name. Our reputation shapes our success as a school--just as your reputation will shape your life. These are our values:

- Honesty
- Trust
- Fairness
- Respect
- Responsibility

Honest Work Is Original, Creative, and Genuine

You are the only you in the world. Why fake your way through life? Be you. The authentic you. Don't sell yourself short. In an increasingly automated and robotic world, authenticity will be highly profitable.

Responsible, Ethical Habits Are Professional Expectations

We don't want cheating doctors and athletes, artists and bankers who steal, or plumbers and entrepreneurs who lie. We don't want to be ineffective, unprepared, or ignorant when we enter into the adult world. High school is where work habits are nurtured; you want to build good ones now.

Remember: Innovation often builds on existing ideas. Imitation is not against the rules (when done properly). We're all "standing on the shoulders of giants." But in every field, there is a line between what's acceptable and what will get you fired. School is where we begin to learn these limits.

Trust and Credibility Build Opportunities for Long-term Success

In the entertainment and popular culture around us, gaming the system is glorified in the same way wild west lawlessness once was. Cheating and manipulating make for good

TV. Antisocial content drives the algorithm. But these aren't good strategies for lifelong success and happiness.

In the real world, employers, mentors, and peers value integrity and character--as do those we lead.

Long-term Effects

The Price Only Goes up from Here

Cheating may start small, but as you move forward in your education and career, consequences for unethical conduct grow increasingly serious and damaging. Incidents of academic dishonesty in college can get you kicked out of school, and misrepresenting yourself and your work in the professional world can lead to revoked certifications and job loss.

If you commit an academic integrity violation at Newport Harbor and it feels miserable, remember that this is the easiest it will ever be.

Natural Consequences Catch up with Us

A person might speed on PCH for years before crashing their car. But the results of that crash can be devastating. Just like this, the natural consequences of integrity violations often take a long time to be felt. But when they hit, they can upend your life and everything you've worked to achieve.

We care about you, and we don't want this to be your fate. This is why we have created this Academic Integrity Framework.

The Value of Work

Training Your Whole Mind

It's a simple fact: ***If you practice, you get better.*** The work you do in school will help you learn how to learn. Teachers design lessons and assign work intended to help you learn content, develop your skills, and grow as a thinker. Your schoolwork is not just a series of arbitrary hurdles, but elements of a complete education. Your active thinking and engagement are important ingredients in your learning.

Committing to academic integrity will help you learn as much as you can.

You Never Know What Will Help You

It's easy to think that the work you do in high school won't do you any good in the long run. When it's hard to motivate, you might convince yourself that algebra, Shakespeare, photosynthesis, or subjunctive conjugations won't be of any benefit to you.

But you never know. It's impossible to see what your future will hold--and you might be surprised at what knowledge ultimately makes your life better. Even if a particular piece of content never becomes "useful," you are practicing the skill of learning. Your brain is like a muscle... work out to keep it strong!

No One Is Perfect

Your teachers understand that you are learning. They do not expect you to understand everything the first time you try it. ***Learning includes making mistakes.*** When teachers see your mistakes, they can help you fix them.

But if your work isn't really yours, they won't be able to understand what you need.

Intellectual grit

Greatness Demands Focus and Discipline

Try to think of the best things in life and ask yourself: What level of focus was necessary to make these things happen? You're likely to find that most great achievements require sustained attention and the resilience to overcome obstacles. As you work through challenges, you will grow stronger--and once difficult things will feel easy.

When you find your passion, when opportunity knocks, or when you know you must work hard to achieve something, you want to be ready for success. ***Grow stronger by committing to your best effort on everything you do in school.***

On Boredom

Some things are tedious. Even if you're wildly successful in whatever you do, there are long days of rote work, stretches of loneliness, periods of grinding through whatever preparation you need to perform. Critical thinking, learning, and engaging in academic work aren't always enjoyable--and it's rarely alluring.

But the ability to fight through distraction and maintain focus is an essential skill on virtually every professional path. As a student, you have a great opportunity to build these skills.

Artificial Intelligence and Your Brain

There are certainly ways that artificial intelligence might benefit your learning. And your teachers who authorize you to use AI will guide you. Of course, whenever you use AI for your schoolwork, it is your responsibility to cite it as a source--and be clear with your teacher how you have used it.

But there are ways that AI can pose a danger to your learning:

- It's easy to let the algorithm do the work for you, which will mean you're less capable of thinking for yourself when you must.
- AI-generated content is likely to be beyond your developmental level (or far below) . . . and you would never know it.
- If you rely on AI, you won't develop your own authentic perspective or vision.

Adults Also Play a Role

Your Teachers & Counselors

- Communicate expectations and guide students
- Use their best professional judgement
- Enforce the rules consistently and fairly

School Administration

- Apply the guidance within the Academic Integrity Framework consistently and fairly
- Use their best professional judgement

Your Coaches and Extracurricular Leaders

- Communicate expectations to students
- Abide by the ineligibility determinations

Parents & Guardians

- Partner with the school by talking to your kids about Academic Integrity
- Review and understand this Academic Integrity Framework
- In the event of a violation, work with teachers, counselors, and administrators to support their child

Violations

It's the Student's Job to Know the Rules

Ignorance of the rules is no excuse to break them. Teachers will instruct students and guide them, but it is up to the student to know the rules and follow them. When in doubt, ask about it.

Academic Honesty Principles

Good Practices for Any Discipline

1. **CITE SOURCES:** If you use anyone else's work in the creation of your work, identify your source. Follow this guideline not only for direct quotes or reproduced images, but also for ideas, style, and other inspiration. Note: Any AI-generated content must be cited.
2. **PRODUCE YOUR OWN WORK:** Even if the assignment allows collaboration, be sure to produce your own work. Whether it's notes on the reading or your part in a group project, it's important that you can point to the output that you have generated. If you can't, you may be cheating.
3. **CHECK WITH YOUR TEACHER:** If there's any question of academic honesty, your teacher can provide guidance if you ask them before submitting your work.
4. **TWO SIMPLE AI PRINCIPLES:** Do not use AI on an assignment without the knowledge of your instructor. AI should enhance learning, not replace it.

The Standard

If the teacher, in their best professional judgement, determines a student has violated Academic Integrity rules, that teacher will report the violation.

Examples of violations

1. Plagiarism

Misrepresenting someone else's work as your own, including work from fellow students, tutors, and family members. Failing to cite sources, including Artificial Intelligence. Copying code, designs, videos, writing, or other intellectual property without giving credit.

2. Cheating

Possessing unauthorized materials or aids during an exam, quiz, or other assessment. Copying others' work; giving or receiving answers during an exam. Discussing test questions with students who have not taken the exam. Distributing test materials in any form. Breaking the rules of an assignment for selfish gain.

3. Misuse of Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence should only be used with the instruction or permission of the teacher, and it must be cited. Keep in mind: Just because a teacher or school provides an AI tool doesn't mean that it's allowable for every assignment. Consult directly with your teacher about the course AI guidelines.

4. Other Violations

- Unauthorized use of intellectual property.
- Submitting work you've done in other courses.
- Collusion: Allowing others to copy, plagiarize, or otherwise misuse your work.
- Creating or changing data, inventing sources, falsely attributing quotes, and the like.

5. Scheme

A scheme is any violation that involves more than two persons. This would include distributing test materials to classmates, selling essays to students, and the like.

Consequences for students at the center of a scheme are immediately elevated to the level of Second Violation.

Particular Guidelines

Different Classes Do Different Types of Work

For some assignments, a student might be assigned to imitate the work of a professional, while other assignments demand that the students rely on their own style. For some tests, working from notes is expected and encouraged; other exams allow only paper and pen. Certain projects encourage group work, and others require an independent approach.

In the same way, different disciplines have different standards of what constitutes academic dishonesty. A lab in science cannot be judged by the exact same standards of a product developed in a career & technical ed class; an essay is a different task than a math test. This is especially true with AI assistance. A coding class might require AI, yet AI might ruin learning in a French or Spanish class.

Consequences

Consequences Accumulate across All Classes and School Years

Re-read this part of the framework: **CONSEQUENCES ACCUMULATE ACROSS ALL CLASSES AND SCHOOL YEARS.**

Links to the web-based version of this document

- [Introduction](#)
- [Academic Integrity](#) - What it means and why it's important
- [Value of Work](#) - How we learn by engaging in our class assignments and lessons
- [Violations](#) - Explanation of unacceptable conduct
- [Consequences](#) - Disciplinary procedures for student violations
- [Communications](#) - Links to outgoing communications from NHHS