

Westchester Academy for International Studies, in accordance with the International Baccalaureate Organization, believes academic activity such as research, testing, individual and collaborative work "should be treated in a positive way, stressing the benefits of properly conducted academic research and a respect for the integrity of all forms" of work.¹

This policy is coordinated with the school's commitment to develop the IB Learner Profile throughout the curriculum and student life. The following five IB Learner Profile characteristics are foundations of our policy: being Balanced, a Thinker, Knowledgeable, Principled, and Reflective.

In support of this belief and the IB Learner Profile characteristics, we have both an Honor Code and an Academic Honor Statement. These are printed in the school's yearly planner which is provided to each student. Our Honor Code is, "It is our belief at Westchester Academy that an honorable student does not lie, cheat or steal." The Academic Honor Statement avows, "On my honor, as a WAIS student, I have neither given nor received any unauthorized aid on this academic work."

Teachers and staff reinforce conventions for citing and acknowledging work. Students receive instruction to support academic honesty in many ways. The following are a few examples: how to take notes, citing resources, use of WAIS and district library resources, use of the internet, and writing a bibliography. Students and teachers have access to various electronic resources such as Paper Rater <http://www.PaperRater.com/> on the internet and Noodle Tools <http://www.noodletools.com/login.php> through the SBISD Library Resources Page. These resources provide support for bibliography construction, citations, grammar, spelling, proofreading, writing style and plagiarism detection.

Definitions:

Academic honesty:

Behaving and working honestly in researching and presenting schoolwork. This includes respecting the ownership of the ideas and material of other people and behaving appropriately when sitting exams (IBO 2007 and 2009).

Plagiarism:

The use of another's ideas or products as one's own, is also defined as cheating.² This includes using others work without citation or sourcing (IBO 2007 and 2009).

Collusion:

Allowing one's work to be copied or submitted for assessment by another (IBO 2009:3). There are times when students will collaborate with other students to complete their work. However, the final work must be independently produced, despite the fact it may be based on the same or similar data and/or research as another student (IBO 2009:4).

Duplication:

Presentation of the same work for different assessment components or course requirements (IBO 2007:2).

Cheating:

Gaining an unfair advantage including but not limited to:

- Giving or receiving information or help on a test²
- Possession of any unauthorized material during a test²
- Copying another student's assignment or knowingly allowing another unauthorized student to copy from his/her assignment²
- Having someone else complete an assignment on behalf of the student²
- Submitting duplicate work²
- Falsifying a record, data, etc.
- Using electronic devices to download or send information without permission

- Using “free papers” from the internet or other sources

Intellectual property:

Includes patents, registered designs, trademarks, moral rights and copyright. The law protects many forms of intellectual and creative expression (IBO 2009:2).

Consequences of Academic Dishonesty:

We believe that when appropriate, instances of academic dishonesty should be regarded as 'teachable moments'. In accordance with Spring Branch ISD policy, the penalty for cheating will be a zero for work involved and the student will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action in cheating offenses. All students involved will be subject to disciplinary action.²

Adopted by consensus of the faculty on May 23, 2012.

Resources:

Discovery College. MYP Programme Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures. Hong Kong. Available: <http://www.discovery.edu.hk/cms/index.php/en/information/policies-and-procedures/learning-and-teaching/myp-programme-policies/myp-academic-honesty> Last viewed March 6, 2012.

Frank C. Martin International K-8 Center. Frank C. Martin International K-8 Center IB Middle Years Programme Academic Honesty Policy. Miami, Fl. Available: <http://fcmartin.dadeschools.net/documents/MYP-policy/MYP-academic-honesty.pdf>. Last viewed March 6, 2012.

International Baccalaureate (2007). Academic Honesty: Guidance for Schools. Geneva: International Baccalaureate Organisation. p1-25. Available: http://occ.ibo.org/ibis/documents/general/specific_interest/malpractice/g_0_malpr_sup_0707_1_e.pdf . Last viewed March 6, 2012.

International Baccalaureate. (2009). Academic Honesty. Available: http://occ.ibo.org/ibis/documents/general/specific_interest/malpractice/g_0_malpr_sup_0907_1_e.pdf Last viewed March 6, 2012.

Spring Branch ISD. Secondary Student/Parent Handbook 2011-2012. p C-12. Available: http://www.springbranchisd.com/campusMenus/backtoschool/secondary_english.pdf Last viewed March 8, 2012.