

Northwood High School Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty Policy

Rationale

As an academic community, our focus is to develop students' critical thinking skills and to provide them with an environment which encourages individual intellectual growth. To do so, we must commit to academic honesty and integrity. However, students have varying definitions of plagiarism or academic dishonesty. By the following, Northwood hopes to provide a clear, consistent definition of the behaviors that constitute plagiarism and academic dishonesty, and the consequences of these behaviors.

MCPS definition of plagiarism and academic dishonesty

Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, the following: the willful giving or receiving of an unauthorized, unfair, dishonest or unscrupulous advantage in academic work over other students, using fraud, duress, deception, theft, trickery, talking, signs, gestures, copying, or any other methodology including the use of photographs without the permission of the photographer (MCPS JFA-RA p 27).

Range of Consequences as outlined by MCPS

The consequences of plagiarism and academic dishonesty can range from a conference to a recommendation for expulsion (MCPS JFA-RA p 27).

What does plagiarism or academic dishonesty look like?

Specific examples of behavior that constitutes plagiarism or academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to:

1. Copying another student's work or consulting another student's work for ideas.
2. For assignments which explicitly require individual completion, collaborating with other students could be considered academic dishonesty if the end products are similar
3. Using supplemental resources such as Cliff Notes, Spark Notes or other resources found online (such as "tutoring" sites, essay sites, or sites on which you collaborate with students from other schools), such that the student does not complete the actual reading or research.
4. Providing answers, work, ideas, or other unauthorized assistance (as indicated by assignment requirements).

PLEASE NOTE: PUTTING ANOTHER'S STUDENT'S WORK INTO YOUR OWN WORDS IS PLAGIARISM. PUTTING A SOURCE OR READING INTO YOUR OWN WORDS WITHOUT ATTRIBUTION IS PLAGIARISM.

If a student is caught plagiarizing or engaging in academic dishonesty, the following will occur:

- The student will earn a zero for the assignment.
- The teacher will explain to the student/s the nature of the offense and its consequences, and provide appropriate evidence.
- If the assignment grade results in a drop of a letter grade or more in the student's quarter average, the teacher will contact the student's parents and note this communication in the school database.
- The teacher will inform the grade level administrator and the student's counselor of the incident, consequences, and any parent contact. The grade level administrator may extend the consequences within the range defined by MCPS.

Appeals Process

Parents may request a meeting with the teacher (and his or her RT, if appropriate); if, following said meeting, parents are unhappy with or would like to challenge the teacher's decision, they should schedule a meeting directly with the grade level administrator.

Sources

University of Maryland College Park, "Academic Integrity."
MCPS Rules and Regulations (JFA-RA)