

Common Questions¹



It is important that all work turned in by a student be an honest and accurate reflection of that student's ability. When a student's grade does not reflect his/her ability or work, it is considered Academic Dishonesty. This is a serious violation of the integrity of the educational process and also a reflection of one's character.

Because all students should strive to uphold the tenets of **Academic Honesty** in all that they do, it is important that students do not take credit for another's work or have an unfair advantage in completing an assessment or assignment.

This means students should not take credit for another student's work or a professional's work. It also means not having an unfair advantage in completing an assignment or having your parents complete your work or projects for you.

The word "plagiarism" comes from the Greek word for "kidnapping". It is taking someone else's work without their permission. While many projects involve team-work, collaboration, and research, it is important that grades reflect each individual student's knowledge, ability and work.

What is collaboration?

The ability to collaborate and work with others is an important life skill. Working together in groups or projects means that you help each other think through problems and questions together and figure out solutions. However, there is a time for team-work and a time for measuring an individual's accomplishments.

Collaboration does not mean that one person gets an answer and everyone copies it down. It also does not mean one person in a group does most or all of the work and everybody else shares the grade.

Teachers will make it clear when you can work together and when the assignment should reflect your individual achievement.

If I give my friend my homework to copy because she did not do her homework, is this cheating?

Yes. You are allowing your friend to turn in your own work under her name and take credit for work she did not do. This does not help your friend learn the material, and it hurts you too.

If you work together on homework (when allowed), both partners should contribute equally to the assignment, helping each other understand the material and 'checking' each other's work.

I found some great material for my research paper on the Internet, can I use it?

Yes! So long as you give proper credit to the original author. If you do not give credit, you are saying that you wrote it

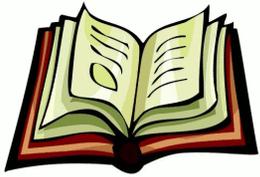
I was absent and want to copy class notes from a study buddy. Is this cheating?

No. The teacher gave the same information to everyone for everyone to use.

Can my parents help me with my work?

Yes, your parents can help you study or with a project, but it is important that the final product reflect *your* ability and knowledge.

EAMS



Academic Honesty Policy

**Honesty
is the first chapter
in the book of wisdom.**

-Thomas Jefferson -

What are the consequences for Academic Dishonesty?

Any act of suspected cheating on homework, quizzes or tests will be handled by the classroom teacher. Your teacher will contact your parents and a report will be made to the office. Students will not receive credit for any assignment that they have been dishonest on. The “No Credit” policy applies to *both the giver and the receiver* of information.

Any cheating on an exam will be immediately referred to the principal for consequences.

As per NYS regulations, if cheating is determined on a Regent’s exam, it is at the principal’s discretion to determine if the student automatically fails the exam.

If credit is not given for a source, your teacher will work with you to make sure proper credit is given. If corrective steps are not made, or if the plagiarism is blatant or severe, the student will not receive credit for the assignment.

Should a pattern of cheating/plagiarism be found with an individual, the administration will intervene with further corrective action.

Some wording and ideas in this document have been taken, where noted and with permission, from:

1) Westborough Middle School (South San Francisco Unified School District) Academic Honesty/Cheating Policy, 12-July-10
(http://wms.schoolloop.com/cms/page_view?d=x&piid=&vpid=1237080715150)

2) International School (Ho Chi Min City) “Academic Honesty in the Middle School” 12-July-10
(<http://www.ishcmc.com/Downloads/Middle%20School%20Academic%20Honesty%20Policy.pdf>)

Use Common Sense!¹

- ✓ Don’t leave your papers out in view of others that they might copy.
- ✓ Keep track of your work.
- ✓ Copying answers does not help you think for yourself or figure out a problem. You’ll still have to show what you know on the tests.
- ✓ Help a friend think through a problem. Giving an easy answer does not teach them anything.

During your time at EAMS, you will be taught and encouraged not to do any of the following:²

- Copy another person’s homework;
- Let someone copy your homework or assist in their cheating in any way;
- Look at another person’s paper and copy their answers;
- Talk with another student during a quiz or test;
- Use hidden notes on a quiz or test;
- Share information about what is on a quiz or test with other students;
- Make up or change laboratory data;
- Have someone do your work for you, including a tutor or your parents. It is important that your parents/tutor do not do all of the work for you. Your role is to come up with the ideas and written work.
- Copy directly from the Internet, by cutting and pasting someone else’s work into your work; this is plagiarism;

- Reword someone else’s work and not give them credit for the ideas, and thereby pass someone’s ideas off as your own; this is plagiarism;
- Turn in an old project done by you or someone else;
- Let your partner do all of the work on a project and then put your name on the project as if you had done an equal share of the work;
- Forge another person’s signature, including a parent’s signature; or
- Perform any act of dishonesty in regard to your academic achievement.

You should assume that all work, including homework, is to be done individually unless the teacher states that working together on a particular assignment is permitted.

How will you know how to properly give credit to another person?²

- Your teachers will educate you about the seriousness of cheating and plagiarism.
- In each of your subjects, your teachers will explain to you the right ways to use someone else’s ideas in your work. If you are not sure whether a particular behavior is cheating or plagiarism, discuss the matter with your teacher.
- Our school librarian will be happy to help you. Don’t hesitate to ask the librarian questions.