Plagiarism, Cheating and Intellectual Property Use

Fortunately, we have very few incidents here at Bishop regarding students making poor choices when it comes to academic integrity or cheating. However, we sometimes encounter situations where students seem uncertain as to what constitutes cheating, particularly in our technological world where access to information, resources, papers, and, yes, test answers, are often right at hand. We also know that whether as a result of pressure, laziness, or even forgetfulness, there is sometimes the temptation to look for the proverbial “short cut” to completing homework or studying to improve assessment performance. If you suspect your child might be tempted to succumb to that temptation, or perhaps you have heard from a teacher regarding their concern, you might find the information below helpful and you may wish to review it with your son or daughter.

In general, BDHS defines integrity of cheating as using someone else’s words, work, test answers, and/or ideas and claiming them as your own.

Examples of Cheating

Below are some common examples of what constitutes breaches of academic integrity:

- Hiring someone to write a paper, buying a paper or downloading a paper from an online service or the internet
- Not properly citing the words, pictures, or other forms of communication in a research project or paper thereby giving the impression they are the “original” work of the student
- Rewording someone else’s words (paraphrasing) but not giving them credit for their ideas
- Copying another student’s homework (or working together with another student to complete the work when it is to be individually done)
- Not participating in with a class project and yet taking credit for the assignment
- Having a family member (sibling or parent) or fellow student complete an assignment
- Looking at another’s test or sharing what is on a test with students also taking that test (including copying any portion of the test or answers)
• Pressuring another student to provide answers
• Using and/or submitting an assignment completed by another sibling or friend

Example of How Students Get Caught

• Teachers and media specialists can simply plug a phrase from a student’s work into a search engine and find where the student “scammed” an idea or paper
• Teachers find out from each other when students turn in work in one class that their friends have turned in for another teacher’s class
• Work that was turned in by a friend or relative years before can still be recognized by teachers
• When a teacher grades a set of tests, lab reports, essays, or papers, they will remember what students have written
• Inconsistency in a student’s answers or grades based on performance, study habits, or attitude which leads the teacher to conduct a closer examination of the work
• Use of multiple versions of a test by teachers where a student’s answers are inconsistent with version student is taking
• Inappropriate use of an electronic device during an assessment

School Response to Academic Integrity Issues

The school policy of potential consequences for integrity issues is set forth in the Parent Student Handbook and typically involves the following steps:

An initial incident will result in the teacher meeting with the student to review the situation and an email to the parent(s) to alert them. The teacher has discretion to determine what credit, if any, is to be given for original work. The Dean is copied on these communications, will typically meet with the teacher, and then meet face to face with the student to review the situation. We want to make sure the student understands the school policy and expectations and, further, is aware of potentially serious consequences (academic and in life etc.) from such incidents. We also try to caution students as to activities to avoid and try and help them identify strategies to cope with the common “causes” that might lead someone to consider the “short
“cut” – strategies such as improved organization, use of study hall to meet with teachers to go over confusing topics, planning ahead etc.

A second incident of academic integrity at any time during the student’s remaining time at BDHS makes the student liable for suspension or other consequence – academic and discipline contract, for example, with loss of privileges. The procedure outlined above is followed in terms of notification to parents and the Dean and, in addition, a meeting with the parent, typically attended by the Head of School and/or Director of Curriculum will be required to discuss the matter and the potential suspension. If suspension occurs, this may be recorded on the student’s academic record. Resumption at Bishop will likely require a Discipline and/or Academic Contract.

A third incident of academic integrity makes the student liable for dismissal from the school. Parents will be notified and the Head of School and/or Director of Curriculum will be involved in the dismissal meeting and decision.

Again, we are fortunate to have students who have such high character, care about their individual achievement, and understand of being evaluated on their own merit! And, when the rare incident occurs, our students, teachers and parents work together to help the student learn from their mistake and move forward to ensure there are no further incidents.

**Community Service Information**

Deadline to submit hours for the 2019-2020 school year is **April 22, 2020**.

**New forms service forms are available online**


**Check the website for additional opportunities and new service locations.**

Teens on the Scene.....

TOTS will be helping out at PATH again on Sunday Feb 23rd 1:00 - 4:00pm. 816 Cacique Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93103. More information about PATH can be found here: https://www.epath.org/regions/santa-barbara-central-coast/.

Habitat Restoration Volunteers - Santa Barbara County Trails Council

The Trails Council builds and maintains miles of trails in Santa Barbara County. Maintenance and rehabilitation of the trails is an ongoing process. In order to protect the trail infrastructure and related resources, volunteers are needed to provide labor. In return, volunteers learn about land stewardship and resource conservation while giving back to the trails they enjoy. The act of paying forward or paying back helps to improve the experience of trail access to our wild and scenic treasures. If you want to join the next native plant saving weed pulling event please visit the web site and send a note expressing your interest in being notified: Volunteers are needed and appreciated.

https://sbtrails.org/volunteer/habitat-restoration/

In life, you don’t get what you want, you get what you deserve and earn.

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