

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

What is it?

Academic integrity is the commitment to honesty, responsibility, and fairness in all academic work. It ensures that students engage in meaningful learning experiences and receive fair evaluations of their work. Academic dishonesty occurs when a student presents the ideas or work of another as their own, whether intentionally or due to negligence. Such actions undermine learning and trust within the academic community.

Why Does It Matter?

Education should reflect what a student **knows and can do**, not their ability to navigate shortcuts. When students engage in academic dishonesty, they miss opportunities to develop skills that are essential for their long-term success. This policy is not about punishment but about **restoring integrity, promoting growth, and ensuring fairness for all students**.

What are some examples?

(This is not an exhaustive list, but it provides key examples of academic dishonesty.)

Homework & Classwork

- Copying another student's work—or allowing another student to copy your work—is **not acceptable**.
- Homework is a **learning process**, not just a product for grading. While discussing ideas with peers is encouraged, each student must write responses in their own words.
- Collaboration is **working together to develop understanding**, not copying responses.

Written Assignments & Oral Presentations

- Plagiarism is using words, ideas, images, or information from others **without proper citation**. This includes copying and/or paraphrasing from books, websites, or AI tools without acknowledgment.
- **Why it matters:** Writing and research are skills built over time. Mistakes in citation should be seen as learning opportunities rather than purely disciplinary offenses. Students should seek guidance if unsure about citation rules.
- **Citations:** Citations are important because they verify your information, give credit to the original author, and strengthen the credibility of your own writing by backing it up with trustworthy sources. Citations should be added any time you are paraphrasing ideas, using direct quotes, statistics, music or photos from another author/source. Telluride Middle/High School uses MLA style citations, which should be added to a Works Cited page at the end of any papers requiring them. Failing to cite sources properly can lead to plagiarism, which is a serious academic offense.

Technology Use (Calculators, AI, and Other Devices)

- **Only use technology when permitted.** Using unauthorized calculators, phones, smartwatches, or AI tools (such as ChatGPT) to complete assignments without approval is considered academic dishonesty.

Tests & Quizzes

- **Assessments measure what YOU know.** Giving or receiving answers from another student invalidates that purpose.
- Unacceptable behaviors include:
 - Bringing unauthorized notes or aids into a test.
 - Sharing or receiving test information from students in another section.
 - Using electronic devices during a test unless explicitly allowed.

Collaboration

We value and encourage collaboration. Collaboration is “the action of working with someone to produce or create something.” Each student should be **learning** equally and not copying answers from one person. As part of maintaining academic integrity, students are also expected not to share test items, assessment content, or other restricted materials with others, as doing so undermines fairness and the learning process for all.

What Happens If Academic Dishonesty Occurs?

Restorative Approach to Academic Integrity

Rather than focusing solely on punishment, our goal is to **help students learn from mistakes and develop integrity**. Consequences should match the level of the infraction while ensuring that students still engage in learning.

- **First offense:** The student will receive a zero until the work is redone with integrity. In addition, the student will complete a reflective learning assignment with Ms. Kimble in an after school detention to help them understand the importance of academic honesty, including the impact of sharing test materials. Additional behavior consequences may exist depending on the severity of the situation.
- **Repeated offenses:** Additional consequences may include Saturday School, a formal academic integrity meeting, in-school suspension, or extra assignments designed to reinforce understanding of ethical academic behavior—including the responsibility not to disseminate or request restricted materials.
- **Latin Honors:** Two or more offenses will result in the loss of eligibility for receiving Latin Honors at graduation.

Our goal is to guide students in learning from their mistakes—not merely to penalize them. Teachers will provide opportunities for students to demonstrate their learning through revisions or alternative assignments when appropriate, reinforcing growth, reflection, and a commitment to academic integrity.

Agreement

As a student at Telluride Middle High School, I understand that academic integrity is essential for my learning and personal growth. I commit to:

- ✓ Completing my work with honesty and integrity.
- ✓ Asking for help when I am unsure about proper citation or collaboration.
- ✓ Avoiding shortcuts that prevent me from truly learning.
- ✓ Accepting responsibility for my actions and learning from mistakes.

I acknowledge that academic dishonesty **harms my own education** and undermines fairness in the academic community. I also understand that honoring this agreement supports my eligibility for acceptance into the National Junior Honor Society and National Honor Society.

Please complete the Google Form to confirm that you have read and agree to this policy: