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Laurier Macdonald High School

IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) Academic Integrity Policy

Philosophy

Laurier Macdonald High School fosters an environment that promotes ethical values and intellectual honesty. Academic honesty is expected from our entire school community—administrators, students, teachers, and parents must all be involved in the process.

The International Baccalaureate defines the principle of academic honesty as “a set of values and skills that promote personal integrity and good practice in teaching, learning and assessment.” (MYP: From Principles into Practice, 2014, updated October 2023, p.77)

The IB Learner Profile is the IB mission statement in action and is central to our school’s educational project. Academic honesty embodies all learner profile attributes, particularly Principled and Communicator:

“Academic honesty is part of being ‘principled’, a learner profile attribute where learners strive to act with integrity and honesty as they question, inquire and act. As communicators, students must express their ideas in many ways and collaborate effectively by sharing and acknowledging others’ ideas.” (Academic Honesty section of the IB educational context 2014)

Approaches to Learning (ATL)

Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills are developed throughout the MYP to strengthen students’ communication, collaboration, and research abilities. Over the five years of the program, students build these skills as they learn to:

- Take responsibility for their actions,
- Paraphrase information accurately,
- Evaluate and select credible sources, and
- Use proper citation in all academic work.

Plagiarism is the act of copying another person’s ideas, text, or creative work and presenting it as one’s own. The use of ChatGPT or any AI-based software to generate academic work is strictly prohibited.

In all academic work, students must give credit to the people and sources from which their information and ideas originate. This includes printed, electronic, and all other forms of communication, and applies to both direct quotes and paraphrased material. Failure to cite sources appropriately is considered intellectual theft.

A student caught plagiarizing will receive a mark of zero (as per the student agenda).

To prevent academic misconduct, each student must attend a workshop on research skills and intellectual property with the school librarian at every grade level. These workshops foster ethical research habits and responsible use of information.

Administrators, teachers, support staff, and parents all play an important role in promoting and maintaining academic integrity.

Roles and Responsibilities

Administration Team:

- Ensure consistent implementation of the Academic Integrity Policy.
- Support teachers in enforcing the policy across all subject areas.
- Guarantee that all students understand the policy and the consequences of misconduct.

Students:

- Submit authentic and original work for all assignments, homework, and assessments.
- Use proper citation formats and acknowledge all sources used.
- Refrain from any form of plagiarism, collusion, or unauthorized assistance.

Teachers:

- Apply and reinforce the Academic Integrity Policy.
- Explicitly teach proper citation tools and research practices.
- Ensure that all submitted work is authentic.

Address incidents of academic misconduct by:

- Meeting with the student,
- Informing parents or guardians, and
- Reporting the incident to the administrative team.

Parents/Guardians:

- Support the school's Academic Integrity Policy.
- Encourage their child to respect the intellectual property of others.
- Accept the consequences if their child commits academic misconduct and view the experience as a learning opportunity.

IB Definitions of Academic Misconduct

Laurier Macdonald High School applies the following IB definitions of academic misconduct as outlined in MYP: From Principles into Practice (May 2014, updated October 2023, p.94):

Academic misconduct is behavior that results in, or may result in, a student or any other student gaining an unfair advantage in one or more assessment components.

Examples include:

- Plagiarism: Representing, intentionally or unintentionally, the ideas, words, or work of another person without proper acknowledgment.
- Collusion: Supporting academic misconduct by another student, such as allowing one's work to be copied or submitted for assessment by another.
- Duplication of work: Submitting the same work for different assessment components.
- Other misconduct: Any behavior that gives an unfair advantage to a student or affects the results of another student (e.g., falsifying data, cheating during an exam, or fabricating reflections).

At Laurier Macdonald High School, academic integrity is essential to our mission of developing principled, responsible, and reflective learners. Through collaboration among students, staff, and families, we strive to uphold the values of honesty, fairness, and respect in all aspects of learning.

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