

Section 5 – Student Policies

5.24 – Academy Honesty

Philosophy

Our Savior Christian Academy students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic conduct and personal integrity. The OSCA faculty is committed to helping students avoid unintentional plagiarism and understand the rules of responsible scholarship.

Academic Support

Teachers in every department at OSCA share their particular subject – specific methods of note-taking and resources to help students develop good study habits.

Implications of Cheating

Students who cheat deprive themselves of the opportunity to learn – especially, how to think. Knowing how to think critically in each subject area prepares students for university classes, as well as any profession they pursue. Cheating is destructive to the entire school community since it damages relationships and engenders mistrust in teachers and classmates. Students who choose to cheat or plagiarize will face the risk that teachers and counselors may not want to write their letters of recommendation for college. If students are suspended for cheating or plagiarism, they are required to admit it in their college applications. Students face life-changing consequences when they choose to cheat rather than earning grades honestly through hard work and good study habits. If students are ever unclear about the guidelines regarding the correct way to cite sources, it is their responsibility to consult with their teachers before submitting an assignment. Cheating and plagiarism are forms of academic misconduct and are both dishonest choices that students can avoid. Ignorance about what constitutes cheating is not a defense.

Definitions

Plagiarism

OSCA students are expected to cite each web page, book, or other sources each time they include any information in an essay or project of their own. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to the following guidelines:

- Including the words of another writer without including proper citation. Copying and pasting from Internet or other electronic sources – even one sentence – is considered plagiarism unless there are quotation marks preceding and following the quoted material. Student writers also include a citation of the source (Works Cited page or Bibliography) at the end of their paper. This applies to other forms of expression as well – artwork, photography, computer coding, mathematical calculations, etc.
- Citing the sources used but copying and pasting entire sentences (or photos/graphics/code) without using quotation marks or proper citation methods.
- Presenting the ideas of another writer (scientist, computer programmer or artist) as one's own original thoughts (or a. Unless a student attributes the ideas to the correct source – even if the wording is changed – it can be considered plagiarism.) If the paper includes another author's ideas, the student must indicate with footnotes or in a Works Cited page where this source can be found. Writing is an extension of one's thinking, and most assignments challenge a student to articulate her own ideas – to differentiate between the opinions she arrived at through her own analysis and those she concluded by consulting other resources. Even if she share the same opinion as another writer, and all the words/images in her essay are her own, she must give credit to the sources used. This applies to music, artwork, coding, etc.
- Submitting another student's work as one's own, for example, an essay written by a sibling or another student.
- Submitting a paper or art work, etc. purchased from an Internet essay site.

Cheating

The following are additional examples of cheating:

- Copying another student's work or assignment (including homework) to submit as their own.
- Allowing another student to copy an assignment (including homework) with the intention of submitting to a teacher for credit.
- Using an unauthorized set of notes such as a cheat sheet, graphic calculator or other storage device during a test or quiz.
- Helping another student without permission on a test or quiz.
- Stealing or borrowing or removing an exam from the classroom or taking it from a teacher without explicit permission.
- Modifying or in any way altering a teacher's grades or official records.
- Using a teacher's notes, manuals, or guides without explicit permission.
- Submitting an assignment in two separate classes for different assignments without explicit permission from your teachers (in both subjects).

Consequences

The consequences of cheating or plagiarism can be severe. Students will receive an F on their assignment or test and may also face suspension from school and a notation on their permanent record. The consequences of cheating and plagiarism at Our Savior Christian Academy can include any or all of the following:

First Incident: 1) Zero on exam or assignment; 2) Parent Conference; 3) Referral to Administration.

Second Incident: Suspension

Third Incident: Expulsion

Honors Classes

Honors students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic honesty; if students are discovered to have violated any of these policies in any assignments, they will be dropped from Honors or AP classes.

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