Academic Integrity Policy 2026-2027

While information and communication technology in the 21st century have made it easier for students to take shortcuts in their education, the expectation at Abbotsford Middle is that every student will submit assignments and projects that are authentically their own and are a true representation of the student's academic ability. In essence, the student will be principled and act with honesty and integrity.

For students, acting with academic honesty and integrity, means honouring the process of education, its standards and practice. By students providing authentic evidence of their learning, their learning can be accurately assessed. To do this, students are expected to take responsibility for their own learning and to fully participate in all learning experiences, both in and out of the classroom. These learning experiences allow for formative and summative assessment opportunities that reflect the student's own work.

Abbotsford School District Philosophy

Abbotsford School District also requires academic honesty based upon the Abbotsford School District Board's (2024) belief that acceptable behaviours and conduct are fostered in a positive climate in which:

- Appropriate behaviour is taught, encouraged, modeled, practiced, and acknowledged, thereby increasing student self-respect and positive social behaviours;
- Expectations for student behaviour increase as they become older and more mature;
- Disciplinary action, wherever possible, is preventative and restorative, rather than solely punitive;
- Disciplinary action is considerate of students with special needs if these students are unable to fully comply with the code of conduct due to a diagnosed disability of an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional or behavioural nature.

Students are expected to:

- Be aware of and obey all school rules;
- Refrain from lying, cheating, stealing;
- Work cooperatively and diligently at their studies and home assignments.

Rights And Possibilities of All Members of the School Community

Teacher/Educational Assistant Responsibilities

Students must be aware and understand academic guidelines in order to follow them. Teachers model and teach proper citation conventions following the MYP rubrics. These appear in:

- Individuals & Societies, Communicating, Criterion C(iii): document sources of information using a recognized convention.
- Language & Literature, Organizing, Criterion B(iii): use referencing and formatting tools to create a presentation style suitable to the context and intention.
- Sciences, Reflecting on the impacts of science, Criterion D(iv): document the work of others and sources of information used.
- IB-MYP General Course Rubrics, Communicating, Criterion C(iii): consistently documents sources of information using a recognized convention.

It is the responsibility of the teacher to ensure that each strand of every subject is covered twice per year. Teachers currently choose the format of the bibliography/works cited, ensuring the "minimum information required in the MYP for identifying sources includes the name of the author, date of publication, title of source, and page numbers, as applicable" (MYP: From Principles into Practice, p. 38). Educational Assistants supporting students with learning difficulties are expected to take extra care to ensure their students understand the necessity of accurate citations with a focus on honesty. It is the responsibility of the teacher to ensure that the citations are completed properly, and students are assigned a level of achievement and if revision is necessary, feedback is given based through assessment rubrics.

Administration Responsibilities

The principal and vice-principals are responsible for ensuring that the district and school codes of conduct are published on our school website– making the information quickly accessible to staff and students.

Administrators can also be expected to assist staff, students and families when students are struggling with the Academic Integrity Policy. The teacher, administrator, and student work together to determine a best course of action as per the "Responses to Academic Transgressions" described.

Parent Responsibilities

Parents are responsible for upholding the academic integrity policy in partnership with the school. If a student fails to meet the academic integrity expectations, communication will occur between staff and families to support their child and the school in its effort to respond in an appropriate manner.

Student Responsibilities

Students are responsible for actively learning while at school. During this, they will learn what constitutes academic misconduct and how to prevent it. They are responsible for adhering to the rules they learn. If a student is uncertain about a rule, they have the responsibility to ask questions before they incur any problems with intentional or unintentional academic dishonesty.

Should a student be found to be in violation of the AMS Academic Integrity Policy, the expectation is that the student will take responsibility for their actions.

What is Academic Integrity / Good Practice?

- Document quotations, opinions, and all other source material in a formal and appropriate manner.
- When paraphrasing, using own words and opinions, and cite sources.
- Acknowledge help given by another person.
- Only hand in shared work when explicitly instructed by the teacher.
- Never share or acquire secretive or inappropriate information which gives any academic advantage.
- Follow all exam, project, quiz, and assignment rules.
- If needed, ask your teacher for clarification in applying academic integrity to specific assignments, quizzes, and tests.
- Information and communication technology, that has not been approved, has not been used to complete assignments, projects, or exams.

What is Academic Misconduct?

The IB defines academic misconduct as behaviour that results in, or may result in, the student or any other student gaining an unfair advantage in one or more assessment components (MYP: From Principles to Practice, Pg 95).

Violation	Definition	Examples
Plagiarism	Plagiarism is defined as the representation, intentionally or unwittingly, of the ideas, words or work of another person without proper, clear and explicit acknowledgment. (Dr. Celina Garza, 2014)	• Copying an article or text from a website without giving credit. • Using an AI tool to help write or translate a portion of your assignment without giving credit. • Reading an article or website, taking ideas from it and then claiming them as your own ideas without giving credit. • Including an image, chart, or video in an assignment or presentation without giving credit
To avoid plagiarism: If you ever use someone else's words, visuals, or ideas - give them credit! Always ask your teacher if you should give the original author credit if you are unsure.		
Cheating	Behaviours that give an unfair advantage to a student or that affects the result of another student.	• Allowing your work to be copied or copying someone's work. • Telling the teacher you have handed something in when you have not (misrepresentation). • Concealing notes or bringing in an electronic device to be used during a quiz/test. • Accessing a mobile device during a quiz/test. • Before or during a test or quiz, sharing your answers or the questions with other students.
To avoid cheating: Be honest, be responsible and act with integrity. Avoid talking or looking at classmates during an assessment. Only bring in necessary supplies during an assessment.		

Responses to Academic Transgressions

Student development of self-discipline is a very important goal at our school. Consequences for behaviour will be logical, realistic, and consistent, with each case of misbehaviour being dealt with on an individual basis. (Abbotsford Middle School, 2026). The aim of the consequence is for students to learn from their experience.

Possible courses of action for academic transgressions include (but are not limited to):

- The student may be required to resubmit the work with a proper works cited page.

- The student may receive a zero for the assessment, with the opportunity to redo the assignment.
- The receiving of internal and/or external academic awards may be jeopardized.
- The student's parents/guardians will be informed of the academic transgression.
- Further administrative actions, may be taken, particularly for repeat occurrences.

Although, there are clear consequences regarding academic dishonesty, Abbotsford Middle School's academic honesty policy is less punitive in spirit and more educational in intent.

Our Commitment

The commitment to acting with honesty and integrity is embedded in IBO policy and philosophy and is entrenched in the IB Learner Profile. Therefore, it is our expectation that students of the Middle Years Programme strive to be:

1. Principled – who act with integrity and take responsibility for their own actions.
2. Thinkers – who make balanced and ethical decisions.
3. Inquirers – who conduct inquiry and research with integrity.
4. Knowledgeable – who acquire knowledge in an honest and productive manner.
5. Open-minded – who seek and evaluate new knowledge and perspectives.
6. Risk-takers – who are not afraid to stretch themselves and be innovative.

These practices will ensure that students are maximizing their IB experience and are prepared for the academic expectations of post-secondary institutions. Academic integrity promotes life-long learning and allows students to think critically while expressing themselves throughout the learning process.

Works Cited

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"IB Learner Profile." MYP: From Principles into Practice, International Baccalaureate Organization, Cardiff, Wales, 2014, p. 7.

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Note: Parts of this document are modifications of policies currently used by IB Schools around the world.