

# Independence High School Honor Code

At Independence, we recognize that enduring excellence is attained only through honor and strong character traits. Honesty, respect, and responsibility are essential traits of good character and are important to the learning process. The purpose of the Independence High School Honor Code is to establish and uphold high expectations for student success both in academic work and in character development.

Independence High School requires that students adhere to standards of academic integrity and honesty. To that end, the following behaviors are unacceptable and violate the IHS Honor Code and the traits of positive character development:

- 1) **Cheating:** Cheating is defined as the act of misleading others through deception, lies, or trickery (Merriam- Webster Dictionary).

Examples include but are not limited to:

- Misrepresentation: Claiming that a work product is the original work of the student.
- Falsifying information: either written or oral.
- Copying or partially copying someone else's work or allowing someone to copy your work. This includes classwork, homework, tests, quizzes, projects, labs, etc.
- The unauthorized use of academic enhancement materials including "cliff notes," study aids, books, formulas, calculators, electronic devices, cell phones, or other sources without the permission of the specific teacher.

- 2) **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is defined as "uncredited use (both intentional and unintentional) of somebody else's words or ideas." from Purdue OWL (Online Writing Lab). <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/>.

Examples include but are not limited to:

- Cutting and pasting information from a website or online source into a paper, presentation, project, etc. without proper citation.
- Intentionally or unintentionally leaving out quotation marks, citations, works cited page, etc., thus misrepresenting the work as the original work of the student.

## Academic Consequences:

Students at Independence recognize that any kind of academic dishonesty compromises their self-respect and their honor. Independence HS students are expected to take responsibility for any action which might violate school standards and compromise his/her own integrity. It is the student's responsibility to clarify with the instructor any ambiguities about violations of the Honor Code. Students who cheat, plagiarize, or are involved in academic dishonesty will experience the following consequences (cumulative for the duration of enrollment at Independence HS):

**1<sup>st</sup> Offense:** Grade of zero on the assignment without opportunity to make up the assignment. Extra credit opportunities are no longer available to the student for the remainder of the quarter. Teacher should contact the parent and inform them of the offense. Offense will be documented in the student's record by teacher submitting a referral to an administrator. There will be no additional administrative consequence just recording of the incident.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Offense:** Grade of zero on the assignment without opportunity to make up the assignment. Referral submitted to the Honor Council. Teacher should contact the parent and inform them of the offense. The Honor Council will consist of teachers, an administrator, and a counselor. Offense will be documented in the student's record by teacher submitting a referral to an administrator. Consequences imposed by the Honor Council may include detention, In-School Suspension, and/or up to 10 days of Out of School Suspension (in accordance with the CMS Rights and Responsibilities Handbook).

## Other Violations of the Honor Code:

Violations of the Honor Code are not limited to academic dishonesty. Vandalism, stealing, lying, bullying, or otherwise unacceptable, undesirable behavior is not permitted. Independence strictly follows the CMS Rights and Responsibilities Handbook in determining consequences for such violations.

**National Association for College Admission Counseling:** Independence is a member of the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) and adheres to the "Statements of Principles and Good Practice." The policy on reporting discipline incidents and consequences (academic or behavioral) is that if a college asks on its application, the student must answer honestly, reporting any incidents beginning with 9<sup>th</sup> grade. The counselor also provides a statement confirming the student's answer is an honest one. In accordance with NACAC principles, Independence counselors will notify all colleges that inquired on their applications, of discipline incidents and consequences incurred by seniors after acceptance.

## Works Cited

"Cheating" Merriam-Webster Dictionary. National Association for College Admission Counseling  
<http://www.nacacnet.org/AboutNACAC/Pages/default.aspx>.

