



North Middle School

International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme



Academic honesty is an integral part of the North Dade Middle International Baccalaureate Program. It is a requirement of the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO), as stated in the IBO General Regulations, Article 3.3 “Candidates are required to **act in a responsible and ethical manner throughout their participation** in the IB Middle Years Programme” which includes not engaging in academic misconduct (as defined in article 20)” The NDMS faculty believes and expects that all IB students possess and will demonstrate academic integrity. The purpose of this policy, therefore, is to clearly communicate these specific expectations of students and how the faculty will work with students to ensure they maintain this ideal.

Definition of academic misconduct (malpractice):

In the IBO publication General Regulations: Middle Years Programme (IBO, 2014), “academic misconduct is behavior (whether deliberate or inadvertent) that results in, or may result in, the candidate or any other candidate gaining an unfair advantage in one or more components of assessment. Behavior that may disadvantage another candidate is also regarded as academic misconduct. Academic misconduct is a breach of these regulations and includes, but is not restricted to, the following:

- a. plagiarism** – this is defined as the representation, intentionally or unintentionally, of the ideas, words or work of another person without proper, clear and explicit acknowledgment
- b. collusion** – this is defined as supporting academic misconduct by another candidate, for example, allowing one’s work to be copied or submitted for assessment by another
- c. duplication of work**—this is defined as the presentation of the same work for different assessment components and/or DP core requirements

Responsibility of staff:

The IB Coordinator shall

- provide a copy of the IBO’s publication Academic honesty in the IB educational context to all IB staff members and ensure they have read it and will understand and comply with it.
- communicate expectations of academic honesty to IB staff and students on a regular basis.

Teachers shall

- make students aware of what constitutes academic dishonesty in their respective classes and how it undermines the learning process.
- make students aware of the consequences of academic dishonesty.
- teach students how to use the words and ideas of others appropriately to support their own oral and written communication, and utilized approved methods of citing sources, providing clear and explicit acknowledgment for content.
- be vigilant about preventing and identifying malpractice at all grade levels and in all subjects.
- structure assignments and tests so as to minimize the opportunity for student dishonesty and malpractice

Responsibility of students:

Students shall:

- not engage in any form of academic misconduct at any time; including collusion, duplication of work, plagiarism, and all other forms of cheating.

- learn correct methods of source citation, including for Internet sources, and ask teachers for guidance. Ignorance of standard practice as taught in the program shall not excuse students' responsibility for proper source citation.
- ensure "that they complete their work carefully, honestly and authentically." (IBO, p. 16).
- inform a staff member when they are aware that another IB student or students have demonstrated academic dishonesty.
- work collaboratively only in appropriate circumstances. Students are encouraged to form study groups, but they should always ask their teachers for clarification about what type of collaboration is appropriate before working with other students.

Process for investigating alleged malpractice

If a teacher has reason to believe that academic dishonesty has occurred, the following steps will be taken.

- The teacher will investigate the suspected malpractice.
- The teacher will communicate the outcome of his/her investigation to the IB coordinator.
- If the teacher and IB coordinator are in agreement that malpractice has occurred, then the student will receive no credit for the assignment in question and disciplinary consequences will be enacted by the IB coordinator.
- Consequences for academic malpractice range from the student earning a zero on the work involved to immediate dismissal from the IB Program, depending on the severity of the infraction.
- If a student is allowed to remain in the IB Middle Years Program following a first incident of academic malpractice, a second incident of any type, on any assignment, at any time during the student's enrollment in the IB Program, will result in the student's dismissal from NDMS IB Middle Years Program.