



ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

*Be true to your work,
your word,
and your friend.*

-Henry David Thoreau

Perez-Pena, R. (2012, September 5). Studies find more students cheating, with high achievers no exception. *N.Y. Times*, P14.

- “Harvard revealed in late August involved a take-home final exam in an undergraduate course with 279 students. The university has not yet held hearings on the charges, which may take months to resolve.
- **Officials said similarities in test papers suggested that nearly half the class had broken the rules against plagiarism and working together; some of the accused students said their behavior was innocent, or fell into gray areas.**“

Perez-Pena, R. (2012, September 5). Studies find more students cheating, with high achievers no exception. *N.Y. Times*, P14.

- “In surveys of high school students, the Josephson Institute of Ethics has found *about 3 / 5 admit to having cheated in the previous year and about 4 / 5 say their own ethics are above average.*”

Academic Integrity at SVGS

OBJECTIVES

1. To strongly reassure you that academic integrity is important and is a priority at SVGS.
2. Make sure you understand the expectations at SVGS
3. Understand that integrity is “all or none”
4. Offer assistance to those who are overwhelmed or struggling or those who are unclear of expectations

SVGS Academic Integrity

- *SVGS Students will:*
 - Apply the self-discipline and work ethic required to achieve at a level consistent with their abilities and talents
 - Honor the independence *entrusted* to SVGS students with personal responsibility
 - Understand and follow the SVGS Honor Code
 - Clarify with the instructor any ambiguities about violations of the Honor Code on an assignment.

SVGS Academic Integrity

- *SVGS Staff will:*
 - Maintain and support the academic integrity of the school community
 - Articulate clearly expectations for academic integrity including limitations of collaboration on each assignment.
 - Maintain the integrity of the testing process.
- *The SVGS Director will:*
 - Inform all students, teachers and parents of expectations at SVGS for academic integrity and personal responsibility
 - Provide support and resources to students, staff and parents to promote an ethical and productive learning community
 - Facilitate ongoing conversations and reflection about the SVGS Honor Code, academic integrity and personal responsibility
 - Administer fair and consistent consequences for offenses of the SVGS Honor Code

SVGS Honor Code

1. ***“ I HAVE NEITHER GIVEN NOR RECEIVED ASSISTANCE ON THIS ASSIGNMENT.”***

By writing and signing the statement above, students verify they have not committed or tolerated acts of academic dishonesty and that the work they have submitted for a grade/credit is their own original work.

2. Students are expected to report suspected honor violations *immediately* to the instructor(s) and/or director. *If a student witnesses a violation and does not report it, he or she is condoning, and a partner to, unacceptable behavior.*

Failure to report a violation is in itself a violation of the standards of academic integrity expected of all SVGS students.

PLAGIARISM

DO

- ✓ Trust the value of your own intellect.
- ✓ Undertake research honestly and credit others for their work.

DON'T

- ✓ Don't copy ideas, data, papers or other works without citing your source.

UNAUTHORIZED COLLABORATION

DO

- ✓ DO YOUR OWN THINKING!

DON'T

- ✓ Don't collaborate with another student beyond the extent expected by the instructor.

CHEATING

DO

- ✓ Demonstrate your own understanding.
- ✓ Accept corrections from the instructor as part of the learning process.
- ✓ Do *original* work for each class.

DON'T

- ✓ **Don't copy answers from another student; don't ask another student to do your work for you.**
- ✓ Don't fabricate results.
- ✓ Don't use electronic or other devices during exams.
- ✓ Don't alter graded exams and submit them for re-grading.
- ✓ *Don't submit projects or papers that have been done for a previous class.*

FACILITATING ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

DO

Respect your own abilities

DON'T

- ✓ *Don't give another student your answers or assignment.*
- ✓ *Don't complete an assignment for another student*

SVGS Academic Integrity

Unless explicitly told otherwise by the teacher assigning the work, *all SVGS students are expected to submit their own work* on individual projects, tests, exams, research papers, homework assignments, laboratory reports, and in-class assignments.

For group activities, all work is expected to be that of the group's members.

SVGS Academic Integrity

- Because much of the work is accomplished within a group setting and students are encouraged to help each other, it is important that they recognize the difference between authorized collaboration and assistance and what is commonly referred to as honor code violation.
- *For any assignment which involves collaboration with other students, all students' names must be listed on the work submitted.* Failure to do so will be viewed as plagiarism and carry serious academic penalties.

Collaboration

Be sure you understand the collaboration policy for each of your classes!!!!!!

- The accepted level of collaboration, as well as the specific requirements for documenting your collaborative efforts, varies greatly from class to class.

Instructors determine the collaboration policy for each class.

- Do not assume you know the collaboration policy. If you are not sure, ask your instructor what type of collaboration is permitted.

Example: Collaboration vs. Copying

From Spring 2012 18.02 Calculus Course Info document: (used with permission of Professor Gigliola Staffilani, Dept of Mathematics, MIT)

- *“You should not expect to be able to solve every single problem on your own; instead you are encouraged to discuss questions with each other or to come to office hours. **But write-ups must be done independently. (In practice, this means that it is OK for other people to explain their solutions to you, but you must not be looking at other peoples solutions as you write your own.)...**”*

Example: Collaboration vs. Copying

From Spring 2012 21W.011 Writing and Rhetoric: Rhetoric and Social Issues Syllabus: (used with permission of Andrea Walsh, Program in Writing and Humanistic Studies, MIT)

“Using someone else’s language and/or ideas without proper attribution is academically dishonest. While a good deal of collaboration between students is encouraged in and out of class, failing to acknowledge sources or willfully misrepresenting the work of others as your own will not be tolerated. Everything you submit must be your own work, written specifically for this class.”

COLLABORATION WORKS FOR YOU; COPYING WORKS AGAINST YOU.

- **If you copy, you are less prepared.**
- **If you copy, you aren't learning.**
- **If you copy, you violate the principles of academic integrity.**

Academic Integrity at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology: A Handbook for Students
written by Patricia Brennecke in 2012.

Beyond Copying

- **Changing the answers** on an exam for re-grade.
- **Misrepresenting** a family or personal situation to get an extension.
- **Using prohibited resources** during a test or other academic work.
- **Claiming work of others** as your own by submitting it with only your name.
- **Assisting** another student in doing any of the above.

(Adapted from: Jordan, David K. (1996). "Academic Integrity and Cheating." Retrieved from <http://weber.ucsd.edu/~dkjordan/resources/cheat.html>, on July 31, 2012.)

Consequences for Academic Dishonesty

- Violations of the SVGS Honor Code will result in any or several of the following consequences:
 - Loss of credibility among peers and staff
 - A grade of zero on the assignment/test/exam/project
 - Offense reported to home school
 - Disciplinary action