



Academic Integrity Policy

Eastport Elementary School - Anne Arundel County Public Schools
Annapolis, Maryland, USA
2019-20

“Maintaining academic integrity is a shared responsibility between the IB and IB World Schools. Academic integrity must be part of the teaching and learning process and as an aspiration of the entire school community.”

“Academic integrity is a guiding principle in education and a choice to act in a responsible way whereby others can have trust in us as individuals. It is the foundation for ethical decision-making and behaviour in the production of legitimate, authentic and honest scholarly work.” (Academic Integrity.2019)

Eastport Elementary School strives to foster a culture of academic honesty. The school adheres to the expectations and responsibilities exemplified in Anne Arundel County Public schools’ Code of Conduct policy and the International Baccalaureate’s philosophy and IB Standards and Practices. The school’s mission statement which supports IB philosophy on academic honesty “strives to inspire students to love and thirst for knowledge, so that they are internally motivated to attain higher goals. It is our belief that students in our care have the right to learn in a risk-free, safe and nurturing environment. Students are accountable for being engaged in learning, participating appropriately and growing socially, emotionally and academically.” Respect for self, others and learning are expected behaviors in AACPS policy and align to the concept of academic integrity, honesty and respect, that are embedded in the IB’s Standards and Practices.

The following beliefs are set in AACPS policy:

- We believe everyone deserves a safe, supportive, and orderly learning environment.
- We encourage appropriate behaviors by teaching, guiding, directing, and providing opportunities for new learning to occur.
- We create opportunities for students to practice and succeed in making responsible and effective choices in order to reach their academic potential and contribute to the school community.

District and IB program policies share commonalities with regard to expectations and regulations that support the principles of academic integrity, as well as a supportive and safe learning environment.

- Respect for culture
- Integrity when working with peers
- Honesty when exploring and recording knowledge
- Acceptable and unacceptable behaviors
- Compliance with policies
- Improved school climate
- Building positive relationships with peers and staff
- Positive approaches to discipline practices

AACPS initiatives

- Positive Behavioral Intervention & Supports (PBIS). Proactive strategies are used to teach appropriate behaviors and create positive learning environments. A three tiered/levelled system of support remediates student learning. Progressive interventions are used to modify student behavior. Interventions support a student's social, emotional, and behavioral health. Violations to the Code of Conduct policy result in consequences by school administrators. Interventions and consequences for inappropriate behavior may occur simultaneously. Offenses/violations range from unlawful offenses such as absences, academic dishonesty (cheating & plagiarism), bullying, disrespect towards others, misuse of technology/social media, to more serious types of violations listed in the Code of Conduct policy. Violations related to transportation and inappropriate behaviors on school buses will result in consequences.

Aims of the PYP

It is the aim of the school to nurture personal integrity and to promote an understanding of academic honesty as good practice in learning and assessment". (Academic honesty in the IB educational context.2014)

Developing a culture of respect for self and others can be cultivated when supporting learners. The IB emphasizes engaging students in meaningful experiences to enable them to comprehend that academic integrity is essential in becoming responsible and caring world citizens. An awareness and understanding of honesty occurs from pre-kindergarten to the 5th grade level.

The Learner Profile and approaches to learning

'Academic honesty is part of being 'principled', a learner profile attribute where learners strive to 'act with integrity and honesty' as we question, inquire and act'. (IB learner profile in review- April 2013)

The IB Learner Profile and attitudes are the foundations for the development of academic integrity in the PYP. The approaches to learning; self-management, social, communication, thinking and research skills guide students in understanding that academic integrity is part of being a life-long learner and world citizen. Approaches to learning are the tools used to develop academic integrity.

Students are encouraged to:

- Display caring attitudes and be open-minded to the contributions of others.
- Share new ideas and communicate in respectful ways.
- Reflect on their actions and dialogue the consequences to unacceptable behavior.
- Explore information technology; internet, social media and library resources responsibly.
- Demonstrate accountability when making decisions for themselves or when working in a group.
- Take responsibility and ownership for their work only.
- Work cooperatively when in groups and share responsibilities equally.
- Think critically; do not plagiarize.
- Cite sources and reference according to age appropriate bibliographic formats.
- Resolve conflicts by making social choices that build and strengthen interpersonal relationships.
- Exhibit ethical behaviors when engaged in assessments.
- Practice moral principles and ethical standards when engaging in extracurricular activities.
- Grow independently, understand their role as learners and practice skills that promote integrity.
- Emulate constructive behaviors that strengthen skills for growth and success.

The Role of the teacher

Academic honesty is an essential aspect of teaching and learning in IB programmes where action is based on inquiry and reflection' (Academic honesty in the IB educational context-2014)

Understanding and engaging in academic honesty is both an approach to learning and an approach to teaching. Teachers at Eastport are role models who promote principled behaviors and integrity. They create opportunities whereby students develop critical thinking skills to make thoughtful and purposeful decisions. Ethical and moral behaviors are established as students inquire into and reflect on their learning.

Teachers:

- Model for ethical, responsible and honest behaviors as outlined in IB documents.
- Build opportunities for student understanding of academic honesty, intellectual property, plagiarism and authentic ownership of personal work.

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- Comply with AACPS and IB policies and communicate academic misconduct to members of the leadership team; the principal, behavioral specialist, counselor, if necessary.
 - Address the development of the Learner profile attributes and approaches to learning and their connection to student understanding of academic integrity.
 - Use essential agreements as a format for evaluating academic integrity and honesty practiced in the classroom and school throughout the year.
 - Ensure that students abide by agreements related to the responsible use of information technology and media resources.
 - Collaborate with the librarian/media specialist to promote academic honesty. Set age-appropriate expectations and practices regarding references, citations, quotations, and common formats. Cross-check with the librarian regarding current publications and ethical use of information.
 - Communicate with parents and students and promote academic honesty, as a larger set of values and skills, that promote lifelong learning.
 - Ensure that the PYP exhibition is an integral part of the programme and involves all stakeholders.

Expectation of stakeholders: In our IBPYP community, all stakeholders, students, teachers, administrators, parents and community members are expected to uphold and support the AACPS Code of conduct and the IBPYP Academic integrity Policy.

Policy access

AACPS website- publicized code of conduct and IB policy

Policy review

As per mandated by IBO, Eastport Elementary Policy is reviewed annually to ensure standards and practices are updated and implemented.

Resources

Academic Integrity- IB.2019

Learning and Teaching-2018

Academic honesty in the IB educational context 2014

IB learner profile in review- April 2013

AACPS Code of conduct handbook <https://www.aacps.org/cms/lib/MD02215556/Centricity/Domain/247/codeofconduct.pdf>