

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The primary goals of any educational institution should be to enhance the learning environment and to promote the pursuit of intellectual excellence. The De Soto Board of Education believes that the public schools should reinforce the values of our democratic society, teacher citizenship, and provide an environment conducive to ethical behavior. Our De Soto School community believes that the school should maintain a climate in which honesty, courtesy, consideration, integrity, and a concern for others are highly valued.

Cheating is an obstacle to achieving these goals. Factors that contribute to cheating include pressure for grades, not enough time to finish all the required homework, students taking advantage of teachers who do not monitor their classes closely, unrealistic parent expectations, and inefficient study skills. None of these reasons makes cheating acceptable. In any of its forms, for whatever reason, cheating denies the value of education. Our teaching staff strives to put the importance of learning above the importance of grades and to convince students that their best efforts are all that anyone should expect.

Definition: Cheating is taking (or lending) at inappropriate times a person's work, information, ideas, research, or documentation, without properly identifying the originator. It includes using unauthorized materials when testing or other acts specified in advance by the teacher.

The teacher's professional judgment will determine whether cheating has occurred. Students are reminded not to give the instructor cause to consider their actions a violation.

Note: Attempted academic dishonesty, even if unsuccessful, will be treated as academic dishonesty.

To avoid inadvertent dishonesty the following list, which is not intended to be all-inclusive, delineates a variety of methods of cheating:

- Letting someone else see one's own or another's paper during an examination, test, or quiz.
- Looking at someone else's paper during an examination, test, or quiz.
- Using any kind of "cheat" notes.
- Talking with another student during an examination, test, or quiz.
- Copying work assigned to be done independently or allowing someone else to copy one's own or another's work, including computer generated information and programs.

Since individual teachers hold different expectations with regard to homework (i.e. some teachers encourage students to work together while other teachers may expect an assignment to be completed independently at home), it is the responsibility of the individual teacher to clarify to the student his/her expectations regarding individual assignments.

- Copying or closely paraphrasing sentences, phrases, or passages from an un-cited source while writing a paper or doing research.
- Giving test information to other students in other periods of the same teacher/same course.
- Submitting individual projects not wholly one's own.
- Fabricating or altering laboratory data.

The Faculty is responsible for monitoring student academic products, detecting dishonesty, and administering penalties. When a teacher learns that a student has committed a form of academic

dishonesty, the teacher shall document the incident and contact the parents/guardian of the minor student and the building administrator.

Penalties and consequences for academic dishonesty shall be assessed by the teacher, under the direction and advice of the building administrator. It is the responsibility of the teacher to document the student's academic violation in the school's disciplinary records prior to the implementation of consequences. These consequences may include, but are not limited to, the following actions listed depending on the severity of the violation. Consequences become progressively more severe with each incident.

1. Student conference with teacher, principal, counselor and/or other school district personnel and a verbal warning;
2. Designation of an "F", zero, or no credit on the academic product that was involved in the academic dishonesty;
3. Parent contact;
4. Parent conference;
5. Exclusion from the National Honor Society;
6. Removal from class;
7. In-School suspension;
8. Suspension from extracurricular activities (which could include, but is not limited to, sports, academic, music, or any other activities connected or under the influence of the school);
9. Detention or restriction of privileges;
10. Loss of school privileges (attendance at after school activities, participation on field trips, participation at school special events, hall privileges, library privileges, assigned seating during classes and lunch, computer use, etc.);
11. In-school monitoring, i.e. required to do assignments or take exams in isolation under direct supervision or a staff member;
12. Failure of the class that the chronic dishonesty is occurring in;
13. Ineligibility for academic scholarships and awards;
14. Referral to in-school support services;
15. Indication on the student's transcript of academic dishonesty;
16. Other disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the school district.

APPROVED: August 20, 2007
