



VANDEGRIFT HIGH SCHOOL Honor Code

“A Viper will not lie, cheat, or steal and will not tolerate those that do.”

WE ARE CONSCIENTIOUS. We complete our work on time and make every effort to meet or exceed expectations. We come to class and meetings prepared and are willing to demonstrate such. We hold ourselves to doing what is required, embrace rigor, and shun mediocrity, special requests, and excuses.

WE ARE RESPECTFUL. We act civilly toward one another by creating an environment in which people respect, listen, speak when appropriate, and permit other people to participate and express their views.

WE ARE HONEST. We do our own work and are honest in all matters. We understand how various acts of dishonesty, like plagiarizing, falsifying data, and giving or receiving assistance to which one is not entitled, conflict as much with academic achievement as with the values of honesty and integrity.

WE ARE RESPONSIBLE. The whole group should not be penalized for the actions of a few. Offering flexible, extended learning opportunities requires flexibility and trust that students will honor the process and attend the sessions as expected. We will utilize the personalized instruction time (PIT) for the purposes intended by attending and participating as appropriate. We understand participation in the PIT schedule is a privilege and that the privilege of leaving class for PIT extended learning opportunities can and will be revoked if this trust is violated. Not being where you are expected/assigned to be during PIT time is considered an honor code violation.

WE HAVE A DUTY TO ACT. Although we may not be required to specifically identify the offender, we are obligated and have a duty to act. When confronted with academic dishonesty, we can't “do nothing”. We must respond to honor code violations as a member of the campus academic community by taking action to address the act of dishonesty.

THE PLEDGE FOR STUDENTS

Students at Vandegrift High School recognize that, to insure honest conduct, more is needed than an expectation of academic honesty. Each student has a “**duty to act**” on violations of the honor code.

As a student at VHS, I recognize that I have a “duty to act”. Doing nothing is not an option. I pledge to be conscientious, respectful, honest and responsible. I understand that each time I sign my name to a school document, I am affirming this pledge.

ADDRESSING ACTS OF DISHONESTY

The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher or supervising professional employee, taking into consideration written materials, observation, or information from students.

"Violation of the "Honor Code" includes, but is not limited to, cheating or copying the work of another student, plagiarism, unauthorized communication between students during an examination, or the misuse of PIT learning opportunities.

Examples of honor code violations include, but are not limited to:

- Copying homework or allowing another student to copy homework.
- Collaborating on homework without the permission of the teacher.
- Plagiarizing by taking credit for work done by another without giving proper credit, including Internet sources.
- Sharing or receiving answers to items included on tests or quizzes.
- Procuring and/or studying from tests or quizzes obtained without the teacher's permission to include students purchasing test banks and essays.
- Accessing answers written on a cheat sheet, item of clothing or anywhere else during a testing situation.
- Looking at or allowing another student to look at your answer sheet during a test or quiz.
- Talking, using signs or making gestures before, during or after a quiz or test for the purpose of communicating with other students.
- Using any electronic device (cell phone, MP3, CD player, palm pilot, calculator, etc.) to access information before, during, or after a test or quiz.
- Sabotaging a fellow student's work in order to gain advantage.
- Collusion and/or theft of tests or teaching materials.
- Students caught skipping class to avoid assessments or due dates.

PENALTIES

A student who is found to be in violation of the Honor Code, will receive the following:

- a. Cheating and/or skipping on a test/project/paper/quizzes
 - 1) 0% with the opportunity to redo for a max grade of 50%,
 - 2) Disciplinary consequence (i.e., Saturday school, mandatory tutoring, detention, etc.)
- b. Cheating and/or skipping on daily work
 - 1) 0% with no opportunity to redo
- c. Repeat Offenders
 - 1) 0% with no opportunity to redo
 - 2) Disciplinary consequence
 - 3) Loss of exam exemption privileges

RECORD KEEPING

Honor Code violations are reported to honor societies, clubs and organizations.

Honor Code violations are kept on record with the Assistant Principal and Dean of Instruction.