

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As the pace of instruction is increasing along with the daily demands homework, project completion, and quiz and test preparation, we would like to take a minute to review a key aspect of being a Raider - *academic integrity*.

Sometimes students find themselves behind in their studies and attempt to avoid deadlines with anxiety-producing last minute effort. These students may resort to behaviors that constitute unethical behavior and academic malpractice. These acts include, but are not limited to, copying another student's work; sharing information about a quiz or test; submitting the words of another's writing as their own; failing to document sources used in research; and colluding on homework without authorization from the teacher. These actions are clear examples of cheating, however there are many more specific examples that can be found in the *Code of Academic Honesty* available on School Space and on www.gomoody.com under "Student and Parent Resources."

The Henrico County Code of Student Conduct refers to cheating and plagiarism in section six:

- A. Cheating includes the actual giving, receiving, or use of any unauthorized aid or assistance or the actual giving or receiving of unfair advantage on any form of academic work.
- B. Plagiarism includes using or copying the language, structure, idea, and/or thought of another and representing it as one's own original work.

The consequences for cheating include, but are not limited to, a grade of zero on the work, a detention, a meeting with parents, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, loss of privileges, and removal from the membership of a team or club.

Academic integrity is so important to us that we write or sign the following statement on all tests and quizzes:

Honor Pledge: "On my honor, I certify that I, _____, have neither given nor received inappropriate assistance on this assignment. I certify that this work is authentically my own."

This statement serves as a reminder that good choices lead to great results.

On the reverse side of this document you will find the Academic Honesty Contract. Once you and your child have reviewed and discussed it, please sign and have your child return it to her/his history teacher.

If you have any questions, please call Sarah Massie, School Counseling Director; April Craver, IB Site Coordinator; Sharron Archer, Assistant Principal; Ann Greene, Assistant Principal; or me at 261-5015.

Sincerely,

Arthur G. Raymond III
Principal