



# Homestead Middle School

## International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme

### Academic Integrity Policy

#### **Philosophy**

At Homestead Middle School, academic integrity is essential to our mission of fostering principled, reflective, and caring learners who respect the rights of others and take responsibility for their own learning. Academic honesty is central to the International Baccalaureate philosophy and it is a reflection of our commitment to develop students who act with integrity in both their academic work and personal lives.

#### **Rights and Responsibilities**

Academic integrity is the shared responsibility of the entire school community:

**Students** are expected to produce their own work, give proper credit to sources, and ask for clarification when unsure about citation or expectations.

**Teachers** are responsible for modeling academic honesty, teaching research and citation practices, providing clear guidelines, and using available tools to support student learning. Teachers model correct citation using IB subject guides.

**Parents/Guardians** support academic integrity by encouraging honest work habits, understanding the school's expectations, and reinforcing the importance of integrity at home.

**Administrators** ensure the policy is implemented consistently, provide training and support, and review cases fairly and transparently.

#### **Teaching and Promoting Academic Integrity**

At HMS, academic integrity is explicitly taught and reinforced across all grade levels. Instruction includes:

- 1) Teaching research skills, paraphrasing, and proper citation of sources (print, digital, and AI-generated).
- 2) Encouraging responsible use of technology, including AI tools, with proper attribution of text, paraphrases, and images.
- 3) Embedding the five fundamentals of academic integrity/honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility into classroom practice. At HMS, these fundamentals are celebrated through recognition of students who display IB Learner Profile attributes, and they are reflected in our school improvement plan as part of our commitment to building character and lifelong learners.

#### **Good Practice**

Students demonstrate academic integrity when they:

- Complete their own work and manage their time responsibly.
- Maintain accurate records of sources, including websites and AI prompts used in assignments.
- Collaborate appropriately without engaging in collusion.
- Seek help from teachers when clarification is needed.

## **Academic Misconduct**

Examples of misconduct include, but are not limited to:

- ***Collusion***: Allowing work to be copied or submitted by another student.
- ***Duplication of Work***: Submitting the same work for different assignments.
- ***Plagiarism***: Presenting another's ideas, words, or images without proper citation. This would include the use of AI without proper citation.
- ***Dishonest Practice***: Any action intended to gain unfair advantage, such as using unauthorized materials, misconduct during assessments, or misrepresentation of work.

## **Consequences of Academic Misconduct**

Breaches of the Academic Integrity Policy are considered serious and will be addressed in alignment with the Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) Student Code of Conduct. Consequences may include:

1. Student-teacher discussion to address the incident.
2. Reteaching expectations and reflection assignments.
3. Parent/guardian notification.
4. Assignment may not be graded and recorded as “*No Credit/Zero*” at the teacher’s discretion.
5. Students may be required to re-do the assignment or assessment.
6. Repeated offenses may result in administrative action and further disciplinary measures.

I have read and understood the Academic Integrity Policy at Homestead Middle School.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ ID# \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*This policy is reviewed every year, in alignment with IB program expectations. Feedback is collected through staff meetings, surveys, and advisory input. (Last revised in August 2025)*