



## Statement of Integrity

Mercyhurst Prep desires to build a community whose members are open, honest, and supportive and whose actions demonstrate earned mutual respect, tolerance, and cooperation. The school provides enough freedom for the students to make moral decisions, yet enough accountability so that they face the consequences of their decisions and actions. In order to ensure that both fairness and opportunity for excellence exist for every student, the integrity policy has been adopted.

The following behaviors work counter to our goals, the charism of Mercy, and the teachings of Jesus Christ and will not be tolerated by the Mercyhurst Prep community.

### Cheating

Intellectual honesty requires the submission of work that represents the original efforts of the individual student. Conversely, **cheating** is defined as representing another's work as your own and enabling others to use your work as their own. This includes but is not limited to the following:

- copying any part of a homework assignment prepared by another student
- looking at another student's quiz or exam
- copying any part of another student's quiz or exam
- using a textbook, notebook, or any form of "cheat sheet," including a programmable calculator, on an exam when it is not authorized
- plagiarizing another's work; for example, submitting a term paper, report, essay, project, lab report, computer project/assignment, language tape, artwork, journal, or any other work written or prepared, in whole or in part, by another
- using any material from a previous term or year prepared by another student on a quiz or exam or submitting any such material as your own
- obtaining unauthorized written or oral information about a quiz or exam
- allowing work in your name to be submitted as a group project without having contributed equally to that project

### Enabling

**Enabling** or helping others to cheat is also cheating. This includes but is not limited to the following:

- allowing your quiz, exam, homework, or any other assignment to be copied and/or submitted by another student
- writing a term paper, report, essay, lab report, journal, assignment or preparing a project or language tape for another student
- passing along previous term's or year's work, notebook, lab report, homework, exam, or quiz
- sharing unauthorized written or oral information about a quiz or exam. This includes sharing information with students who have not yet taken an announced or unannounced quiz or exam.
- failing to report cheating by others

## **Lying**

Trust is the foundation upon which caring communities are built. **Lying**, defined as presenting false information with the intention of deceiving, undermines this trust and will not be tolerated. Lying includes but is not limited to:

- intentionally relaying false information
- lying by omission; that is, neglecting to relay pertinent information when questioned
- forging the signature of another
- submitting a false excuse

**Enabling** a lie to be told by another is also lying.

## **Stealing**

**Stealing** is a further violation of the trust required for true community. Defined as taking without right or permission, stealing demonstrates a lack of respect and empathy for others and will be regarded as totally unacceptable behavior at MPS. Stealing includes but is not limited to the following:

- taking without authorization any item not belonging to you such as textbooks, laboratory supplies/instruments, library books, computer disks, artwork, office equipment, clothing, money, calculators, classroom supplies
- taking items of food from the cafeteria without paying the designated fee
- failing to purchase the required ticket for special events such as jeans days or dances
- downloading computer programs and/or information without authorization

**Enabling** a theft to take place by aiding the thief in any way is also stealing.

## **Vandalism**

Stewardship is a mark of Mercyhurst pride and spirit and is the responsibility of each member of our community. **Vandalism** is defined as willful or malicious destruction of public or private property and will not be tolerated. This includes but is not limited to the following:

- intentionally defacing, destroying, and/or causing not to function any part of the school building, its furnishings, and items contained in the building or on the grounds; for example, writing on desks, walls, lockers, textbooks; removing dispensers from lavatory walls; driving on the lawn; forcefully slamming and/or kicking lockers
- intentionally disabling computer hardware and/or software
- intentionally deleting and/or altering material stored on a computer hard drive and/or disk
- intentionally destroying or defacing displayed materials, such as student artwork, bulletin boards, posters

**Enabling** such destruction to take place by aiding the vandal in any way is also vandalism.

\*Definitions were taken from the [American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, 1982](#). The statement of integrity itself is based on that developed by Mother of Mercy High School of Cincinnati, Ohio, who has authorized Mercyhurst Prep to use and alter that document.