

Pleasant Valley Committed to Academics

Philosophy

Pleasant Valley's mission is "[t]o promote individual student educational success via a sequence of teaching, learning, assessment and support." Our goal is to enhance our learning environment and promote the pursuit of academic excellence. We strive to maintain a climate in which honesty, courtesy, consideration, integrity and a concern for others are highly valued.

Academic integrity is essential to achieving these goals, while academic dishonesty interferes with academic success. Factors that contribute to academic dishonesty include:

- Pressure for grades
- Inadequate time to complete assignments
- Unrealistic parent expectations
- Inefficient study skills

In any of its forms for whatever reasons, academic dishonesty 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.

What is Academic Integrity?

Academic integrity means valuing:

- Personal truthfulness
- Intellectual honesty
- Learning and education
- Respecting intellectual property (crediting other's ideas)

What is Academic Dishonesty?

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- Allowing a student to look at your or another's work during an examination or quiz or to complete a homework assignment.
- Looking at someone else's work during an examination or quiz or to complete a homework assignment as your own.
- Taking shortcuts to bypass the steps to complete an assignment or assessment (e.g. reading Sparknotes rather than the actual text, locating answers without doing computations, etc.).
- Using materials to "help" during an exam without approval, such as "cheat" notes, cell phones, or calculators.
- Sharing or asking about questions or answers to quizzes or exams, including the use of technology (cell phones, etc.) to do so
- Altering corrections or grades with the intent of modifying grades.
- Misrepresenting yourself in any way to your teachers in regard to the work you have done (e. g. saying you have turned in an assignment when you did not, or that you worked hours longer than you did to complete a assignment).
- Doing more or less than your share on a group project without teacher approval.
- Missing class in order to avoid turning in an assignment or taking a test.
- Fabricating or altering laboratory data.
- Copying, or paraphrasing sentences, phrases or passages, including images without citing the source.
- Doing work for another student.

Procedures and Consequences

Whenever a student has been found to have violated the Academic Integrity Policy, the teacher may:

- Investigate the issue.
- Conference with student(s).
- Notify the parents or guardians.
- Document the incident.

Consequences for cheating are severe. These are school-wide and cumulative for all the years you attend PVHS. The professional discretion of teachers and administrators will be used should a violation be determined, including the time frame in which alleged violation(s) occurred (e.g. if a "cheat sheet" is found prior to the test beginning the teacher and/or administrator will still consider it a violation).

Range of Consequences:

- The student will receive a zero on assignment/assessment
- The student's grade will be lowered one letter grade.
- The student's current teachers will be notified.
- Extracurricular and sport coaches will be notified.
- Students will be denied a letter of recommendation from teachers.
- A discipline referral to administration with appropriate consequences will be issued.
- The student will be subject to suspension from school and/or excluded from extracurricular activities including removal from ASB office and disqualification from California Scholastic Federation.

Academic Integrity is a shared responsibility amongst the school, the student and the parent. Please sign below to indicate that you have read and fully understand Pleasant Valley High School's Academic Integrity Policy.

Student signature: _____ Student ID number _____

Parent signature: _____