

HCA DEFINITION OF AND POLICY ON CHEATING

Scripture is clear on the commands to believers concerning honesty and integrity. While dishonest gain may be tempting to all of us, it does not come without consequence. Proverbs 20:17 says, “Bread obtained by falsehood is sweet to a man, but afterward his mouth will be filled with gravel.” It is the intention of Hickory Christian Academy to ensure that our students are performing with the utmost academic integrity. Therefore, we will define academic dishonesty – better known as cheating.

General Definition – Cheating is receiving outside help on work claimed to be your own.

Students who are given an assignment or assessment in school may not request, receive, or offer answers to that task without the expressed permission of the teacher who originally gave the assignment. This includes, but is not limited to, all tests, quizzes, papers, homework, and projects. In other words, anything a student turns in to a teacher for a grade must be a 100% reflection of that individual student’s knowledge and personal work on that assignment. There are several different forms of cheating that will fall into this category:

1. Taking or receiving information. A student who looks onto another student’s paper (or information source) in order to gain information that he would not have otherwise been able to provide on his own, is considered cheating. A student who turns in answers that were freely given him by another student in an effort to claim credit for himself is considered cheating.

2. Offering or giving information. A student who offers answers from his paper (or information source) to another student in order to assist them on answers that they would not have otherwise been able to provide on their own, is considered cheating. A student who gives his assignment answers to another student who did not complete the assignment on his own is considered cheating.

3. Plagiarism. Plagiarism is considered cheating, and is often illegal. Plagiarism is defined as taking someone else’s original words, ideas, or organization and making them your own without giving proper credit to the source. Taking an original document, and changing a few words, is still plagiarism since it steals the original general thoughts of another. In other words, a document does not have to be a word-for-word copy to be considered plagiarism. Plagiarism may come from books, magazines, videos, internet, or any other source of original (copyrighted or not) material.

Those who **give or receive** information on such assignments will fall under the definition of cheating, and will **lose all credit on that assignment as well as receive an official office referral** as stated in the school’s discipline policy.

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Students are required to keep this in their notebook throughout the year. Failure to do so will negatively impact their class participation grade.