

Academic Integrity Policy
West Salem High School

West Salem High School expects all students to abide by ethical academic standards. Academic dishonesty - including plagiarism, cheating or copying the work of another, using technology for illicit purposes, or any unauthorized communication between students for the purpose of gaining advantage during an examination - is strictly prohibited. West Salem's Academic Integrity Policy covers all school-related tests, quizzes, reports, class assignments, and projects, both in and out of class. The purpose of West Salem's Academic Integrity Policy is to prepare students for the reality created by the technology explosion, for the world of college and beyond, where cheating and plagiarism have dire consequences.

Plagiarism is not the same as cooperation or collaboration. Teachers often expect, even encourage, students to work on assignments collectively. This is okay, as long as whose work being presented is clearly relayed.

- *Collaboration* is to work together (with permission) in a joint intellectual effort.
- *Plagiarism* is to commit literary theft; to steal and pass off as one's own ideas or words, and to create the production of another. When you use someone else's words, you must put quotation marks around them and give the writer or speaker credit by citing the source. Even if you revise or paraphrase the words of someone else, if you use someone else's ideas you must give the author credit. Some Internet users believe that anything available on-line is public domain. Such is not the case. Ideas belong to those who create and articulate them. To use someone else's words or ideas without giving credit to the originator is stealing.
- *Cheating* includes, but is not limited to, giving or receiving unauthorized aid from another person or consulting unauthorized materials. Cheating also includes actions such as intentionally misrepresenting the need for extra time or choosing to be absent in order to gain more information.

West Salem School District
Policy 378 Rule

- *Forgery or stealing* includes, but is not limited to, gaining unauthorized access to exams or answers to an exam, altering computer or grade-book records, or forging signatures for the purpose of academic advantage.

The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on specific evidence provided by the classroom teacher or other supervising professional employee, taking into consideration written materials, observation, or information from others.

Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to disciplinary as well as academic penalties, as outlined below.

APPROVED: June 25, 2007

West Salem School District
Policy 378 Rule