

What is academic honesty?

IB programmes encourage students to inquire, take action and critically reflect on what they learn and how it affects their attitudes and behaviour. They should be able to:

- make their thoughts and their learning explicit
- show how they have developed their ideas
- demonstrate the views they have followed or rejected.

This is essentially what academic honesty is about—making knowledge, understanding and thinking transparent.

Students need to understand that people construct knowledge together. We all must reflect on our roles in furthering knowledge and building understanding. An essential aspect of this is an understanding of academic honesty.

Academic honesty must be seen as a set of values and skills that promote personal integrity and good practice in teaching, learning and assessment. It is influenced and shaped by a variety of factors including peer pressure, culture, parental expectations, role-modelling and taught skills.*

*Middle Years Programme. MYP: From principles into practice. May 2014. P. 76.

For more information, please view the publication **Academic honesty in the IB educational context** at <http://www.ibo.org/myib/digitaltoolkit/brochuresflyersposters/>

Moulding Years of Principled action

“ We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences. ”

From the IB learner profile at:
<http://www.ibo.org/contentassets/fd82f70643ef4086b7d3f292cc214962/learner-profile-en.pdf>



Academic Honesty in the Middle Years Programme



What does the International Baccalaureate (IB) expect of academically honest students?

The IB expects students to be, in all aspects of school, work and play:

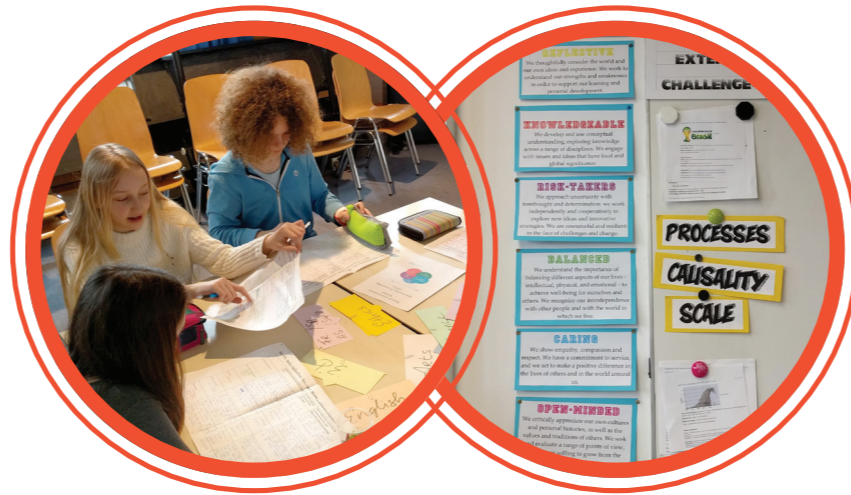
- **inquirers**
- **principled**
- **thinkers.**

Academic honesty connects with the IB learner profile, which is the IB's mission translated into a group of learning outcomes for today's students, and links to students' developing competencies in self-management, research and communication.

It is common practice in all aspects of life to be inspired by, or to adapt, ideas or work of others. It is acceptable to build on the work of others and still produce authentic work. However, in an age flooded with shared information and shared opinions, younger learners can find the concept of **intellectual property** difficult to understand.

The key is to guide them in building an understanding that using other people's work is acceptable, but honesty requires them to explicitly **give credit** to the original author.

A student surrounded by a nurturing learning environment will be conscientious and become a lifelong learner acting with **integrity** in all aspects of life.



As an MYP student, how can you demonstrate academic honesty?

- Make your work personal and write using your own "voice".
- Acknowledge help and resources used.
- Allow yourself time to do the work properly.
- Submit work that is authentic as part of the e-Portfolios and personal/community projects.
- Familiarize yourself with what constitutes academic misconduct in the on-screen examination.

Key terms to help understand the role of academic honesty

- Cheating
- Citing and referencing
- Collaboration
- Collusion
- Equal opportunity
- Misconduct
- Ownership
- Plagiarism
- Principled action

Please refer to your individual school's policy for further guidance.

As the parent or legal guardian of an MYP student, how can you support him/her?

- Encourage them to ask their teachers for advice if they are having difficulties with their work.
- Establish a good level of communication with the school so that you understand the requirements of the MYP and what is expected of students.
- Support your child but be sure he or she is the one responsible for the work done.

For more information, please visit the website at <http://www.ibo.org/programmes/middle-years-programme/>.

As a teacher, what is your role and responsibility?

- Communicate expectations you have for to students by clearly referring to the academic honesty guidelines
- Encourage honesty and communicate the consequences of breaching IB regulations
- Make the Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills an explicit focus for teaching and learning, particularly information literacy skills