

**THE WESLEY SCHOOL
MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR CODE**

Developing and maintaining a sense of community is integral to The Wesley School experience. The faculty, students, and parents work together to create an atmosphere of trust. Good citizenship and positive social interaction are expected among all members of the school community. Just as we strive to help each student achieve his or her full potential academically, learning the value of community, trust, and citizenship is equally vital

The Wesley School, in order to maintain a sense of community among students and faculty, expects all member to

- demonstrate self-respect and respect for others and their property.
- be responsible.
- practice good sportsmanship.
- encourage others.
- avoid harassment and bullying of any kind.
- be trustworthy and honest.

In affirmation of the above, a Wesley student pledges: "I shall strive to do my best by applying these principles."

When behavior guidelines are not followed, students must experience consequences that provoke learning and internal development. Therefore, consequences for indiscretions will be immediate, restorative, individualized, and rehabilitative. Consequences include:

- removal from class
- detention (served before school at 7:00 AM or during lunch)
- reflective writing assignment
- community service
- loss of privileges such as an overnight field trip or dance
- administratively driven suspension from school life

Non-harassment and Anti-bullying Statement

The Wesley School is committed to giving each member of the school community the full measure of dignity and respect to which we are all entitled. Diverse religious, ethnic, racial, socio-economic, sexual orientation, family make-up, and cultural backgrounds, as well as different learning styles and abilities, are represented within the student and parent body and the faculty.

We strive to foster an environment in which everyone can learn and develop to his or her full potential without feeling fear or intimidation. To this end, our school community will not tolerate harassment or bullying. Harassment of any sort based on race, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, physical ability, economic status, personal qualities, appearance, or learning differences is strictly prohibited. Furthermore, we consider unacceptable all forms of bullying, which we define as conscious, willful, malicious, and/or deliberate activity intended to exclude, harm, or induce fear through the threat of further aggression or create terror. Unacceptable behavior includes, but is not limited to, verbal abuse, physical bullying or the threat of physical bullying, and the use of technology and social media to adversely affect any member of the community's comfort level, behavior, or performance at school. Furthermore, we encourage the students of our community to be kind for kindness' sake -- there are intrinsic rewards for sharing, giving, and generally being a genial person.

Any student who believes that he or she has been the target of harassment or bullying or has witnessed the harassment or bullying of another student by any member of the school community should contact his or her advisor, teacher, or division head. All instances of harassment or bullying are subject to severe disciplinary action.

Honor System

Honor is a matter of cooperation among all members of the school community. The Wesley School stresses the importance of developing this trust and the community responsibility we have to each other. Lying, cheating, stealing, and bullying are four specific behaviors that are strictly prohibited. A community cannot successfully exist and flourish when these behaviors exist within its members. In an effort to understand honor and violations of trust, The Wesley School has adopted the following explanations of offenses and consequences.

What constitutes lying?

- Telling an untruth
- Not telling the complete truth
- Denying responsibility for personal actions
- Forging a parent's signature and offering that forgery as legitimate

What constitutes cheating?

- Copying another person's work (tests, quizzes, homework, etc.) or allowing someone to copy your work
- Asking for or giving questions, answers, and/or information from assessments (students working together on homework or other types of assignments may do so only with specific teacher instruction)
- Looking at and getting information from someone's work in class or allowing someone to look at your paper
- Getting information from books, notes, or elsewhere during an assessment
- Turning in another person's work as your own
- Plagiarism of any kind (copying from any published source, including the Internet, without properly citing the source constitutes plagiarism)

What constitutes stealing?

- Taking or using another person's or the school's possession(s) (i.e. library books, sports equipment, textbooks, personal items) without permission
- Not turning in "found" items to a teacher, administrator, or the main office

What constitutes bullying?

- Causing a person to feel unsafe
- Repeatedly excluding or ignoring a person for any reason
- Hurting or frightening a person verbally or physically
- Damaging a person's belongings
- Intimidating a person in any way

What constitutes being an honorable person here at Wesley?

- Going out of one's way to be nice, tell the truth, or simply do the right thing, even if it's unpopular to do so
- Being aware and respectful when younger students are around
- Keeping our campus clean and welcoming
- Helping others who need a hand

Course of Action for an Honor Offense

- First offense
 - Conference between student, Middle School Head, and any teacher involved
 - Parents informed first by student; follow-up with parents by Middle School Head
 - No credit given for any school work involved in the violation (a score of **0** on the assignment, test, or quiz)
 - Detention to be served before school
- Second offense
 - Conference between student, parent(s), and Middle School Head
 - Middle School Head determines appropriate consequences, which most likely will include

- suspension, the length to be determined on an individual basis
- disciplinary probation—another significant violation may result in expulsion/withdrawal from the school
- no credit for work involved in the violation (as above)
- Third offense
 - Conference between student, parent(s), Middle School Head, and Head of School
 - Student is subject to immediate expulsion/withdrawal from the school at the discretion of the Head of School.

The Honor Code is not simply a set of rules; it is a code of values that guides the behavior of a responsible member of the middle school community. This Honor Code is intended to foster respect, openness, acceptance, and kindness in our community and ensure that each student has a positive experience at school on a daily basis. It is the framework in which all members of the school community develop individual systems of values in preparation for becoming responsible young women and men. Acting in accordance with these ideals is indeed a reward unto itself, but also leads to building a better community, a better school, and a better individual YOU.

THE WESLEY SCHOOL
MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR CODE CONTRACT

I, _____, have read and understand The Wesley School Honor Code.
I agree to adhere to and support the Honor Code and the School's policies and expectations.

Student's Name (please print)

Grade

Student's Signature

Date

Parent's Signature

Date

Parent's Signature

Date

This form must be signed and returned to the main office, to Mr. Campanella, or the student's advisor.