

# Mission San Jose High School Honor Pledge

As a member of the Mission San Jose High School community I pledge, on my Honor, not to lie, cheat, or steal in my academic life. I understand that such acts violate the Honor Code and undermine the community of trust of which we are all stewards.

## Section 1: Statement of Purpose

The honor system is based upon the premise that a person's honor is his or her most cherished attribute. In a community devoted to learning, a foundation of honor among individuals must exist if that community is to thrive with respect and harmony among its members. An Honor System is the ideal mechanism to ensure a system based on mutual respect. With it the community is afforded a freedom that otherwise would not be available. With this freedom comes each individual's responsibility to conduct himself or herself in such a way that the spirit of mutual trust, which sustains the system, is not compromised.

Under the Honor Code of Mission San Jose High School, it is expected that all students demonstrate honesty and integrity in their conduct. Acts of intentional lying, cheating, and stealing are deemed reprehensible and cannot be tolerated. A person who has violated the Honor Code must be sanctioned for compromising the community of trust and honor.

## Section 2: Infractions

Infractions of the Honor Code include (1) lying, (2) cheating, and (3) stealing, under the circumstances described below. Students are responsible for learning the Honor Code and ignorance of its provisions is no excuse for a violation thereof.

1. Lying is the expression of a material untruth made with the intent to mislead another or with reckless disregard for the truth of the matter asserted. Lying is a violation of the Honor Code when the material untruth is uttered or presented, verbally, electronically, or in writing, to another member of the High School community (student, faculty, or staff), or at activities sponsored by the school or school-affiliated groups, or to any person when the student actively represents himself/herself as a student of Mission San Jose High School. Lying includes, but is not limited to, forgery or the use of false identifications.
2. Cheating is the act of wrongfully using or taking the ideas or work of another in order to gain unfair advantage. It includes, but is not limited to: (1) the act of plagiarism; (2) the acts of giving unauthorized aid to another student or receiving unauthorized aid from another person on tests, quizzes, assignments or examinations; (3) the acts of using or consulting unauthorized materials or using unauthorized equipment or devices on tests, quizzes, assignments or examinations.

The term “assignment” includes any work, required or volunteered, and submitted to a faculty member for review and/or academic credit. All academic work undertaken by a student must be completed independently unless the faculty member expressly authorizes collaboration with another.

Plagiarism occurs when a student, with intent to deceive or with reckless disregard for proper scholarly procedures, presents information, ideas or phrasing of another as if they were his or her own and does not give appropriate credit to the original source. Proper scholarly procedures require that all quoted material be identified by quotation marks or indentation on the page, and the source of information and ideas, if from another, must be identified and be attributed to that source. Students are responsible for learning proper scholarly procedure. While any amount of improperly attributed material may be sufficient to find plagiarism, a student may be presumed to have acted with intent to deceive or with reckless disregard for proper scholarly procedures when a significant amount of improperly unattributed material is presented as if it were the student’s own work.

3. Stealing is the intentional taking or appropriating of the property of another without consent or permission and with the intent to keep or use the property without the owner’s or the rightful possessor’s permission. Although the prohibition against stealing includes property of whatever nature, it also covers theft of the academic work product of another.

### Section 3: Consequences

1. Consequences for violations of the Honor Code are outlined in the Mission San Jose High School Discipline Guidelines and California Education Code Section 48900.

I have read the Mission San Jose High School Honor Code and agree to abide by its contents.

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Student Signature

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Parent(s) Signature

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Date

Adapted from “The College of William and Mary Honor Pledge”