



A COMMUNITY COMMITMENT TO HONOR

At St. Michael's we strive to treat others as we would wish to be treated. Our honor pledge, developed by the Middle School Student Council, is signed by each student at the Honor Assembly in the fall. The pledge reads as follows:

I pledge to be honest in everything I do; therefore I will not lie, cheat or steal. I will not do things that might injure other people because I believe that I should treat others as I would like for them to treat me. I promise to try to prevent, discourage, and report all bullying while doing my best to treat others with respect. Because I respect myself, I will not do what I know to be wrong, and I will not abuse my privileges. If I do break a rule, I will accept responsibility for my actions without arguing or excuses.

HONOR: A keen sense of right and wrong; Committing oneself to what is right; Refraining from lying, cheating, stealing or harming another person.

Lying: Lying is the act of making a deliberate false statement with the intent to deceive (mislead). Lying also includes misleading another person by giving a false impression. (*Note: It is always best to tell the truth. Generally, there will be a lesser punishment for an honor violation if you tell the truth immediately.*)

Cheating: Cheating is acting dishonestly for one's own gain. (*Note: Concerning school work, cheating usually means using someone else's work as your own or using your own notes or information during a test or quiz. Occasionally you will have an "open-book" test. These are always announced by the teacher ahead of time.*)

Cheating includes looking at someone else's paper in order to use that person's answer as your own. This applies not only to exams, tests, quizzes, but also to projects and homework answers.

Copying someone else's answers on tests, quizzes, or homework is considered cheating by both persons involved: the person who copied and the person who permitted the copying.

Stealing: Stealing is taking what does not belong to you. (*Note: Most obviously, stealing is taking another person's money or possessions to use as your own. Stealing includes taking another person's school supplies, books, or food without permission. "Borrowing" a pen, pencil, or any other item must involve the immediate permission of the owner.*)

Handling Another Person's Belongings: This is an honor violation because of the open nature of the desks and lockers. Because locks are not used at St. Michael's, students must be able to trust each other not to touch, "borrow" or move other people's possessions.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is cheating and stealing. It involves stealing and using the ideas or words of another person without crediting the source. Sources may be print or digital, text and images.