

# Academic Integrity and Cyber Ethics in our schools today

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# Plagiarism

- Definition
- Examples of plagiarism today
- The Internet's Impact
- Student excuses
- Consequences
- Detection tools
- Student education
- Resources

# Definitions

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- Plagiarism- “an idea, expression, plot, or the like, taken from another and used as one’s own.” (World Book Encyclopedia)

# Center for Academic Integrity

- Surveyed High School 4,400 High School students from 25 schools.

# McCabe Study Key Results (US)

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- **74%** of respondents reported one or more instances of serious test cheating.
- **72%** reported one or more instances of serious cheating on written work.
- **97%** report at least one questionable activity (from copying homework to test copying)
- **More than 30%** of respondents admit to repetitive, serious cheating on tests/exams
- Yet **only 20%** agreed with statement, 'Cheating was a serious problem in my high school.'
- **68%** expect less test cheating at university. 19% not sure.

# The Internet's Impact

- Availability of information
- Accessibility of information
- Copy and Paste feature

# Internet plagiarism

- **15%** have submitted a paper obtained in large part from a **term paper mill or website**
- **52%** have copied a few sentences from a website **without citing** the source
- **90%** of the students using the Internet to plagiarize **have also plagiarized from written sources.** (The Web has 'created' few new cheaters - 6% of all students.)

Source: Center for Academic Integrity study: Student Cheating in American High Schools. Donald L. McCabe May 2004 <http://www.academicintegrity.org>

# Student excuses

- Lack of knowledge or education
- Lack of time
- Compromised values
- Pressure to perform



# Denise Pope-Stanford Professor

- Author of *“Doing School: How we are creating a generation of Stressed-out, Materialistic and Miseducated students”*.
- 75% of all High School students cheat, higher percentage are students who have most to lose (AP or honors students=more pressure).

# Consequences

- High Schools (suspension, Honor Board, academic probation, expulsion)
- College (academic probation, course failure, permanent transcript notation, expulsion)

# Detection tools

- Search engines like Google
- Services like Turnitin.com
- Teacher experience

# Student education

- Academic perspective (Web quests, paraphrasing exercises, articles, proper ways of composing a bibliography, citing.)
- Ethical and moral approach in our Catholic Schools

# Awshley Mouberry-Sieman Study

- Role of teachers is key!
- Educators are responsible for setting the expectations and standards.

# Prevention Techniques

- Use multiple versions of an exam
- Do not repeat major assignments from year to year.
- Refrain from assigning “busy work”
- Closely monitor classroom environment

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