Secondary Student Honor Code

The Liberty Christian School Honor Code will be read and signed by all students in 7th through 12th grades.

Purpose

At the heart of Liberty’s mission statement is the sincere hope for students to truly live committed Christian lives. For this mission to be realized, the students must commit to follow the two greatest commandments as expressed by Jesus Christ in Matthew 22:37, 39. The first is “to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” The second is “to love your neighbor as yourself.” These two commands have called our school community to formulate the Honor Code as the inspiration and core of an honorable lifestyle. The desire of Liberty is that its students individually and corporately strive to walk worthy of the calling to faithfully follow Christ.

Student Commitment

An honorable student body is one of mutual trust, honesty, and respect. It is an environment where each individual is expected to live honorably and each individual is expected to encourage his/her peers to live honorably as well. It is a community where students do not feel compelled to keep their belongings locked up, where students do not feel the pressure from peers to lie and cheat, and where students are not ridiculed for their commitment to live honorably.

An honorable student body is more than a commitment to follow a set of rules. It is a commitment to an honorable lifestyle. It is our hope that our student’s commitment to an honorable lifestyle will far outlive their time at Liberty. We hope our students see the benefits of an honorable lifestyle and allow the principles of the Honor Code to reflect all aspects of their lives.

Honor Code Definitions

The following is a list of definitions of the most common Honor Code violations.

Lying

Definition: Any action, appearance, or statement, which an individual knows, or should know, to be untrue, given with intention to deceive.

Stealing

Definition: Taking or attempting to take property, whether physical or intellectual, without right or permission.

Cheating

Definition: Using or attempting to use unauthorized assistance or advantage in academic work that is submitted as one’s own individual efforts or the giving of such assistance to others.

Plagiarism

Definition: Literary theft, misrepresentation, and falsification.

Plagiarism is a serious violation of another person’s rights, whether the material stolen is great or small; it is not a matter of degree or intent.

Plagiarism is prevented when the proper form of documentation is followed.

Standards for Proper Documentation: Items that must be documented are facts, quotations, para-phrases, and summaries. Writing that expresses one’s own thoughts, experiences, or interpretations and is stated in one’s own words does not require documentation. Also, when information is common knowledge or is from a specific text, it does not need citation. As a standard for the proper documentation, Liberty will use the MLA Handbook for high school. Students will receive specific written instructions and examples of appropriate and inappropriate referencing.

OTHER DISHONORABLE ACTS

These acts include, but are not limited to, the use of alcohol, the use of illegal drugs, sexual immorality, inappropriate and abusive language, student and teacher disrespect, and vandalism.

Consequences

Based upon the principles established in Galatians 6: “If another Christian is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path”, this conversation is best handled with an attitude of care and concern for the suspected violator and not with an attitude of harshness or reprisal. In an honorable student body, students have a responsibility to “help each other back on the right path.” This policy does not leave room for students to discuss (gossip) about suspected violations among themselves. Gossip falls under the category of “other dishonorable behaviors” and is an Honor Code violation itself.

The seriousness and nature of an Honor Code violation as well as the student’s previous behavior, in large part, determines the consequences. The most serious violations will be sent to the administration with the possibility of suspension or expulsion from LCS.
Suspension/Expulsion
If the presence of a student at school would jeopardize the safety of others in the Liberty student body or cause a disruption in the normal operations of the school, the student may be suspended. There are also some serious violations that may warrant expulsion.

OFF CAMPUS BEHAVIOR
Once a student decides to attend Liberty, certain responsibilities accompany that choice. Attending Liberty Christian School means that wherever a student goes, the name of Liberty goes with him/her. Each student's actions will be judged as an extension of the reputation of Liberty. That responsibility must be taken seriously, especially since our name does include the name of Christ. It should be that students at Liberty would always desire to conduct themselves in a way that brings honor to the name of Christ. All individuals are responsible to conduct themselves in a way that does not dishonor what Liberty desires to represent. Bearing a name with honor is a grave responsibility and must be considered at all times. Hence, Liberty Christian School must care what all its students do both on and off campus since an honorable reputation is to be highly valued. "A good name is to be more desired than great riches." Proverbs 22:1a
Violation of the Honor Code on or off campus will have consequences.