

Miami Palmetto Senior High School Honor Code

Section 1: Statement of Purpose

The members of the Miami Palmetto community believe that the fundamental objective of the school is to provide the students with a quality education while developing in them a sense of ethical and social responsibility. Trust, responsibility, and integrity are important characteristics to develop to be both successful at Miami Palmetto and in the future. Every instance of dishonesty hurts the entire community. The Miami Palmetto Honor Code is a guide for all members of the school community to act in accordance with these goals.

Section 2: Objectives

The Miami Palmetto Honor Code aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity and honor, where dishonesty is not tolerated by any member of the community. Students should grow in both intellect and character.

Section 3: Student Responsibilities

Students are responsible for making choices consistent with good character, and acquiring knowledge, that will enable them to be quality citizens in the future. The Honor Code helps to ensure that all students at Miami Palmetto are given the same advantage in class and demonstrate their own abilities on examinations and assignments. All forms of academic misconduct are contrary to the honor code and will not be tolerated by the school community. Academic misconduct, as defined by the Code of Student Conduct, is:

“Using unauthorized answers or sources to receive credit for schoolwork. Some examples are looking at someone else’s paper, copying from your notebook when you are supposed to use only your memory, or copying someone else’s homework because you did not complete yours. Plagiarism is a form of cheating when you present another person’s words or ideas as your own without giving the originator credit for the information. Some common examples of plagiarism are copying information from a book without using quotation marks and without including a bibliography at the end of the assignment listing the sources used. All information in academic assignments that is not common knowledge must be cited and documented.”

Please note: This definition also applies to work turned in for extra credit. Information obtained from the Internet must be quoted and cited in a bibliography just as information obtained from a book.

Section 4: Faculty Responsibilities

Faculty members should foster an environment where honesty flourishes. They are expected to do the following:

- At the opening of school, make known to their classes the importance of integrity, the Honor Code, and the repercussions for breaking it.
- Make known to their classes, as specifically as possible, what constitutes appropriate academic conduct and misconduct, for example: the limits on working with other students, expectations of citing sources of information, and the requirements for showing the steps involved in problem solving.
- Report all instances of academic misconduct to the Assistant Principal for Curriculum via a referral.

Section 5: Honor Code Council

The Palmetto community understands that mistakes are a part of human nature and breaches of the Honor Code will occur. The community also believes that students should learn from their mistakes and from others to develop ethical behavior and responsibility. The Honor Council is a student-run organization that assists students who have violated the Honor Code to make better choices in the future. A student may be referred to the Honor Council only once while at Palmetto. Since the first step in learning from our mistakes is admitting that we were wrong, all students referred to the Honor Council must sign an acknowledgement that the incident did occur as outlined by the teacher. The Council is a group of approximately 6 students who are elected by the student body and the Principal or Principal’s Designee. All cases handled by Honor Council are in strict confidence between the Council members and the offending student only. The Council’s responsibilities include:

- Counseling students about ethics and responsibility
- Assisting the student to repair the breach of trust with his/her teacher
- Providing advice for improved study habits and time management
- Providing information about available tutoring
- Advising students who wish to report an Honor Code violation

- Educating faculty and administration of ways to improve and maintain the integrity at Palmetto

The Assistant Principal for Curriculum will select consequences as specified in the Code of Student Conduct. Cheating is a Level II offense. Only for first offenses, and only if the student admits that he/she has committed academic misconduct, will the APC follow Plan II consequences outlined in the Code of Student Conduct.

- “Parent/guardian contact
- School-based program that focuses on modifying the student’s inappropriate behavior or promotes positive behavior (Honor Council)
- Suspension from school for one to five days”

Please note: If the APC chooses to send the student to Honor Council, then the offense will not be recorded on the student’s permanent record. In all other cases, the permanent record will reflect the offense. If the APC chooses Honor Council, then the signed Violation of Honor Code Form will be forward to the Honor Council.

For repeated academic misconduct and for serious offenses, the APC will follow Plan III consequences listed in the Code of Student Conduct.

- “Parent/guardian conduct
- Suspension from school for one to ten days
- Permanent removal from class (placement review committee decision required)
- Recommendation for alternative educational setting
- Recommendation for expulsion”

The following consequences will be assigned by Honor Council:

- Letter of apology to teacher expressing knowledge of why cheating is wrong
- Detentions and/or mandatory hours of tutoring
- Completion of Honor Council assigned consequences will result in no permanent record of the violation in the student’s case management file
- Failure to appear at the scheduled Honor Code session or failure to comply with the assigned consequences will result in a referral to the APC. The student is then subject to Level II or III consequences and “action for academic misconduct” will be placed in the student’s permanent record.

The following consequences are stipulated by student government, honor societies, and select school clubs as determined by the constitution of the organization: Please review individual club constitutions.

- Removal from leadership positions
- Removal from membership

In addition, the student may lose school honors and awards. A student who has been cited for academic misconduct during the current school year and has a record of such in their student case management file may lose eligibility for honors and awards for that school year.

Students will receive this document, sign it, and return it to school.

This copy is for your review.

Honor Agreement

Having read the Miami Palmetto Senior High Honor Code, on my honor, I accept the terms of the Honor Code and promise not to commit any act of academic misconduct. I understand and accept my responsibility as a member of the Miami Palmetto community to maintain my honor and integrity at all times. All members of the Palmetto community are bound by the Honor Code; failure to sign does not release a member from this commitment.

Student Signature _____