

The Christ School Honor Code

One of the most momentous and historic events in Christ School's history occurred in the spring of 2000 when the Student Body voted to adopt an Honor Code. While honor had long been important for the community, it had never before been part of an official code. As a member of the Christ School community, it is extremely important that you understand the Honor Code and that you agree to live by its principles. Please do not confuse the Honor Code with the Disciplinary System: they are separate processes at Christ School.

Honor Oath:

"As a member of the Christ School community, I will not lie, cheat, or steal."

Upon enrollment each student must sign the honor oath and is expected to live by its principles. A student who lies, cheats or steals may forfeit the privilege of remaining in the School community. Education on honor-related issues and enforcement of the Honor Code is the responsibility of the Honor Council, a group of students appointed by the members of the Council in the VI Form, Faculty Advisors, and Headmaster. We encourage all students, faculty, and community members not to condone acts of dishonor and violations of the Honor Code, as well as to promote a community grounded in trust and integrity.

Violations of the Honor Code:

Lying is making a self-serving statement that one knows is false. Secondly, a student is in violation of the Honor Code if he is found to lie by omission. Lying by omission is an act where a student does not reveal the whole truth or withholds knowledge that reveals the truth. If a student initially makes a false statement and, before being accused of an Honor offense and within a reasonable period of time then gives the true explanation of the same matter, the Honor Council will take this act of honesty into consideration.

Cheating is giving aid to a student or receiving aid on tests, quizzes, assignments, or examinations without the consent of the teacher. Cheating also includes plagiarism, which may be described as taking the ideas (either written or electronic) of another person and passing them off as if they were the student's own. More will be said about plagiarism in your classes, but remember to acknowledge your sources when you prepare endnotes and bibliographies for papers. Your teacher will explicitly state what is and is not allowed on a given assignment. This includes acknowledging information gained through the use of electronic media. On all graded assignments, tests, and papers the students pledge in writing that "On my honor, I pledge that I have neither given nor received unauthorized help on this work."

Stealing is taking or appropriating another person's property or the School's property without permission. Stealing should not be confused with borrowing. Borrowing is the taking or receiving of an item without a clear understanding between the borrower and owner of the condition under which the item will be returned or replaced. Never assume that it is acceptable to take anything without express permission from the owner.

Sanctions:

If the Honor Council determines that a student has violated the Honor Code, the Council holds the power to recommend sanctions for the student as a result of the violation. The Headmaster then reviews the recommendation and makes the final decision as to the violation and sanction. Sanctions include the following:

- 1) **An Honor Warning** is the least severe response. After the Headmaster has notified the student's parents, the student will then receive counseling from the Headmaster or Chaplain.
- 2) The second-level sanction is **Honor Action**, which means that the student must take care not to have any additional honor offenses for the remainder of his Christ School career. Also, a student on Action will receive more in-depth counseling. In both of these first two sanctions, education about Honor is a key objective, the responsibility falling to the Chaplain or Headmaster. All students convicted of an offense have the opportunity to clear themselves of Action status: cases may be reviewed one year after the case is heard by the Council. Students on Action must initiate all such reviews; it is also his responsibility to provide evidence as to why the status should be changed. Thus, if a student makes appropriate amends, the Honor Council may remove him from Action status.
- 3) **Dismissal** is the third sanction. It is reserved for the most serious violations, and for those who are repeat offenders.
- 4) **Punitive action:** When recommending a Warning or Honor Action, the Council has the discretion to recommend further consequences for a student who is found to violate the Honor Code. These consequences include but are not limited to the following:

- Plagiarism Workshop
- Counseling
- Stump
- Letter of Apology- To be sent to teachers or persons towards whom the honor violation had a detrimental effect.
- Additional Community Service- The student could be required to complete an additional amount of community service before the end of the current semester.
- Afternoon Work List (s)- Whereby a student misses sports practice and/or games during the time in which he is required to complete his work list by helping the facilities and/or grounds crew.
- Morning Work List (s)
- Saturday Work List (s)
- Out of School Suspension- Student is suspended from school and must return home for a time designated by the Honor Council.

Council Members:

The Honor Council is intended to be a student-led body that works together with members of the faculty to execute the Honor Code and maintain a community of trust and integrity at Christ School.

The Council is comprised of the following members:

- Chair (Member of the VI Form)

- One student from Forms III, IV, V, and VI
- Two at-large representatives from the V and VI Forms
- Three Faculty Advisors
- One Student from the II Form may be appointed after the first semester.

Appointment to the Honor Council:

Form representatives are appointed to the Council through an application process, by which the student must submit an application and write a personal essay that is reviewed by the current members of the Council in the VI Form, including the Chair, and Faculty Advisors at the end of the school year. Students will be notified when the application process is open. Students must be in good academic and behavioral standing to apply for appointment to the Council. Students with past violations of the Honor Code are ineligible for appointment to the Honor Council.

The VI Formers, Chair, and Faculty Advisors then select the Council for the coming school year based on their application. Students may be asked to meet with the selection committee to discuss their application further. The selection committee will make a recommendation of appointments to the Headmaster, who holds the final approval in all appointments to the Honor Council.

Two at large delegates from the V and VI Forms are appointed to the Council at the beginning of each school year. These students may submit an application to the VI Formers and Faculty Advisors. Students will be notified when the application process is open.

The Honor Council Chair is the only position elected by the student body. Students who wish to run for Chair must self-nominate themselves and give a speech in front of the entire student body explaining why they wish to serve as Council Chair. The student body then elects the Chair by a secret ballot vote. The Chair is announced at Tapping.

Confidentiality:

Confidentiality is of utmost importance in the process. The purpose of the Honor Code is not to destroy the good name of any young man at Christ School. The Honor Code and the Honor Council are designed to educate, affirm, and promote the values of honesty, truth, and simple trust—basic tenets of our life together in community. Therefore confidentiality during the process is crucial. If a student is charged, only the following individuals will know that he has appeared before the Honor Council: members of the Honor Council, Faculty Advisor to the Honor Council, Faculty Advisor to the student, Chaplain, Headmaster, the student's parents, and any witnesses. If a student is charged and found innocent, the Headmaster, Chaplain and parents will be notified. The Director of Curriculum and Academics is also informed when the infraction is academic in nature. All witnesses are held to the same standard of confidentiality. A breach of this confidence constitutes an honor violation. Obviously, members of the Honor Council are held to the same standard as all other students. Indeed, because of the sacred trust of the position, they are held to an even higher standard.

The Christ School Administration, Faculty, and Honor Council reserve the right, at any time, to review and amend the Honor Code in order to preserve the highest ideals of honor and integrity in the Christ School community.