

Humanities Academy Student and Parent/Guardian Contract

Welcome to Soquel High School and to the Humanities Academy! The Humanities Academy is a two-year intensive humanities program for academically motivated students. In the Academy, students follow a rigorous course of study designed to prepare them for honors and AP courses, and ultimately for college. Students in the Academy have the opportunity to be a part of a learning community that encourages a high standard of achievement and that provides the support students need in developing strong writing, reading, and critical thinking skills. Additionally, one aspect of the Academy that is essential to its success is the close-knit community of learners and peers that develops among the students, which creates a safe and supportive classroom environment.

In order to provide this unique opportunity, all students must enter the Humanities Academy aware of community, performance, and integrity expectations. Likewise, the parents/guardians of Academy students are asked to support their children in fulfilling these expectations, so in this and other ways parents are asked to participate the Academy community as well. Therefore, we ask all Academy students and their parent/guardians to read and commit to the standards outlined below and on the reverse side.

I. Classroom Community

An important part of the Humanities Academy program revolves around the creation of a cohesive and supportive academic community. The Humanities Academy expects students to be supportive of their fellow students; contribute their thoughts, time, and energy in class; and uphold a high standard of academic discourse in the classroom at all times. Failure to participate positively in the Humanities Academy community can result in disciplinary action appropriate to the infraction.

II. Academic Performance

Students in the Humanities Academy must maintain a semester grade of “C” in both their English and social studies classes to continue their participation in the program. Therefore, students must work to maintain their grades in both classes throughout the semester. Though the teachers in the Academy will provide regular grade postings, it is the responsibility of students to be aware of their grades in the courses and inquire of the teachers if they have questions. Should a student’s semester grade drop below a “C” in either English or social studies, they will be removed from the Humanities Academy and placed in the appropriate English and social studies classes in the regular school program. An “Incomplete” grade is considered an “F” until the grade is changed.

III. Academic Integrity

Students enrolled in the Academy are expected to produce high quality work, and they are asked to produce this work with integrity. Plagiarism of any sort is not acceptable. The *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (2000) describes plagiarism as follows: “Plagiarism involves two kinds of wrongs. Using another person’s ideas, information, or experience without acknowledging that person’s work constitutes intellectual theft. Passing off another person’s ideas, information, or expressions as your own to get a better grade or gain some other advantage constitutes fraud” (66). The reverse side of this contract further elaborates what constitutes plagiarism and outlines the consequences of academic dishonesty. Please read this information thoroughly.

I, _____, agree to uphold the Humanities Academy standards of community participation, academic performance, and academic integrity. I understand disciplinary action may occur should I choose not to uphold these standards, and that action could include removal from the Humanities Academy. I have read and understand the integrity expectations outlined in this document.

Student signature

I, _____, agree to support my child in upholding the Humanities Academy standards of community participation, academic performance, and academic integrity. I understand that disciplinary action, which could include removal from the Humanities Academy, may result if my child chooses not to adhere to this contract. I have read and understand the integrity expectations outlined in this document.

Parent/Guardian signatures

Integrity Expectations

If it is clear beyond a reasonable doubt that a student has plagiarized a summer reading assignment essay, he will immediately be dropped from the Academy.

Emailing an essay or leaving a paper in another student's possession can lead to plagiarism. In the event that plagiarism occurs due to such sharing of papers, both parties will be punished as outlined below. In the event of such plagiarism of summer reading essays, both students will be expelled from the HA.

Soquel High School expects ALL students to demonstrate honesty and integrity. Soquel High School expects each student to complete his/her own work and to cite material taken from other sources. Violations of this contract include but are not limited to:

1. Plagiarism from texts, Internet, magazines, or other sources. *
2. Copying homework or otherwise submitting any work that is not the student's own.
3. Failing to cite sources that are directly quoted, paraphrased, or summarized.
4. Cheating on exams, tests, or quizzes, including theft of or unauthorized access to an exam.
5. Submission or use of falsified data.
6. Use of unauthorized material from the following sources in the preparation of any assignment or examination: online sources including but not limited to *SparkNotes*, *eNotes*, *Maxnotes*, *Cliff Notes*; textbooks, notes, or computer programs.
7. Supplying or communicating unauthorized information in any way to another student for the preparation of an assignment, activity, or examination.
8. Collaboration in the preparation of an assignment unless specifically permitted or required by the instructor.

9. Submission of the same work for credit in two courses without obtaining prior permission from both instructors.

* **Plagiarism** includes but is not limited to failure to cite the source if any of the following appear in the work submitted by a student unless otherwise specified by the teacher:

- Any idea derived from the published or unpublished work of another person, whether directly quoted, paraphrased, or summarized.
- A phrase, written or musical.
- A graphic element.
- A proof.
- Specific language.

Consequences of Academic Dishonesty

The consequences of academic dishonesty accumulate through HA9, HA10, Honors and/or AP courses for both English and social studies:

First Offense

1. Conference with student and parent
2. Zero credit or F grade for the assignment. If the F grade lowers the student's grade to a C- or lower at the semester, the student will be removed from the HA.
3. No opportunity for make up
4. Referral to administration. Student is now on probation.

Second Offense

1. Referral to Administration
2. Zero credit or F grade for the assignment. If the F grade lowers student's grade to a C- or lower at the semester, the student will be removed from the HA
3. Suspension for violation of Ed. Code 48900 K
4. Mandatory conference with parents, teacher, and administrator

Third Offense

1. Referral to Administration
2. Suspension for violation of Ed. Code 48900 K
3. Mandatory conference with parents, teacher, and administrator
4. F grade for the semester and removal from the HA, AP, or Honors course.
5. Possible district Disciplinary Hearing