

April 10, 2019

Good morning students,

I am writing to you because I don't want to see you. Well not exactly, I would love for you to stop by and grab some candy or a snack, but I don't want to see you for academic dishonesty.

This is the time of the year when we see an uptick in academic dishonesty. Here is my sage advice, just do your best. It really is good enough. It is so much better to turn in a paper that is yours and yours alone and get partial credit than to end up with a zero and discipline. There is a whole section in the student handbook that covers many (not all) of the situations that can get you into trouble, but the bottom line is just do your own work! A few other helpful hints:

- If you don't understand an assignment or a question, ask your teacher. Believe me, they all want to help.
- Really look at how much you have to do before the end of school, and make a realistic plan.
- Do your own work. Don't copy someone else's. You'll always get caught, and then you both lose out.
- Cite your materials, use your quotes, footnote...
- Cutting and pasting information just shows what that author is saying. Your teacher wants to hear your voice, your insights, and your understanding of the material.
- Do not share your work with others. If you have worked really hard on a paper or a project, be proud, and protect your investment of time and energy.
- You are all going on break after Friday. When we return, it will be a whirlwind of papers, tests, and projects, as we head quickly into AP testing and finals. We do believe in all of you! Trust yourself, you are extremely capable. You can do anything you set your mind to (even if it doesn't always feel like it, you can do it). So before you are tempted, before you are in crunch time, before the whirlwind starts, make sure that you are setting yourself up for success.
- If you need help, talk to your teachers, form a study group, see your guidance counselor, or check out the library (resource heaven). Just reach out. Even my scary office door is open for candy, snacks, a quick pep talk, and you are always welcome.
- Remember we are all available to support each of you, and trust me, every teacher and staff member is truly dedicated to helping you to succeed!!!! Good luck, I hope you all have a great and happy Easter vacation.

Keeping you all in my prayers, many blessings,
Mrs. Cost