

Dear Parents/Guardians-

Last week we learned the integrity of a recent Calculus exam was compromised. In response, we launched an investigation that included interviews with staff and students as well as a review of video footage. We also received several letters from students and parents which provided additional information to the scope and severity of cheating on tests in courses across the curriculum. Our initial communication was to parents of students in Calculus, but we now feel all parents should be informed about this situation.

Academic integrity is of utmost importance to all of us. We are asking for your support in talking with your students about the ramifications of engaging in some of the dishonest assessment practices reported to us, including:

- using cell phones to take photographs of tests
- removing additional copies of tests from classrooms
- sharing (and even selling) photographs of test questions
- bartering questions on tests from one content area to another
- planning absences on test days to obtain test information

Cheating is considered a level two behavior as defined by the MHS Code of Conduct. Level two behaviors may result in serious consequences including suspensions.

We encourage you and your student to share any information that may be pertinent to our ongoing investigation of cheating practices. Such information can be shared with an administrator, school counselor, or teacher.

We feel fortunate to have a wonderful student body whose academic record on multiple assessments is top-notch. We are hopeful that through our collaborative efforts we can determine the root cause of talented students choosing to participate in dishonest academic practices. In January, we will host a series of focus groups, including staff, students, and parents to problem-solve short- and long-term solutions. More information on the focus groups will be provided in January.

Sincerely,

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