



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2851 North Seminary Avenue, Chicago, IL 60657

phone 773.534.5725 fax 773.534.5784

[www.agassizschool.org](http://www.agassizschool.org)

*Our promise is to provide a nurturing and rigorous learning environment. We will instill within our students a love of learning by identifying their positive distinctions through academics, the arts and athletics. We empower students to be responsible, contributing members of an international community.*

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\*Agassiz Elementary School is a candidate school\* for the PYP. This school is pursuing authorization as an IB World School. IB World Schools share a common philosophy- a commitment to high-quality, challenging, international education- that we believe is important for our students.

\*Only schools authorized by the IB Organization can offer any of its four academic programmes: the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP), the Diploma Programme (DP), or the Career-related Programme (CP). Candidate status gives no guarantee that authorization will be granted.



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## **Section 1: Introduction**

### **Our Mission**

Our promise is to provide a nurturing and rigorous learning environment. We will instill within our students a love of learning by identifying their positive distinctions through academics, the arts and athletics. We empower students to be responsible, contributing members of an international community.

### **Our Vision**

As a result, Agassiz students strive to be life-long learners who are persistent problem solvers, are inquisitive about the world, have a strong sense of self, and articulate their thoughts, feelings, and ideas through ongoing reflection.

Agassiz students strive to be empathetic by understanding different perspectives while being mindful of their unique viewpoint.

Agassiz students strive to be caring and principled, and to possess a foundation of knowledge that enables them to build a more peaceful world.

### **Academic Honesty Philosophy**

The International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) defines academic honesty as, “a set of values and skills that promote personal integrity and good practices in teaching, learning, and assessment”. Agassiz Elementary School strives to develop within students a sense of integrity and pride in all they do. Our academic honesty philosophy places students at the center of their learning experience and allows for them to exemplify the International Baccalaureate (IB) learner profile attributes of being thinkers, knowledgeable, caring, communicators, and principled. From the start of their Primary Years Programme (PYP) journey, Agassiz students are encouraged to demonstrate their unique perspective, ideas, and learning experiences using a variety of mediums and modalities. Teachers and staff work with students to ensure they are aware of the importance of:

- Taking responsibility for one’s individual and group work.
- Putting forth their best effort.
- Good academic research and citing the work of others, which further gives credibility to one’s original work.



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### **Academic Honesty Policy Development and Annual Review**

Our academic honesty policy was developed in collaboration with Agassiz teachers and staff, who considered the developmental continuum when identifying the ways in which we will foster within students ownership in their learning throughout their IB journey. This policy is designed to both define and outline for students, parents, teachers, and the learning community the expectations associated with the development of authentic work. In addition, Agassiz teachers and staff have identified the social-emotional and academic supports necessary to ensure students can succeed at each milestone of their IB journey.

This policy will be reviewed and updated annually by Agassiz teachers and staff using feedback from various stakeholders in our school community.

### **Section 2: Responsibilities related to Academic Honesty**

Academic honesty is dependent upon the shared responsibilities of the various stakeholders below.

<b>Student Responsibilities</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Produce authentic work, including assignments, homework, projects, and assessments.</li> <li>● Collaborate and share responsibility for group assignments.</li> <li>● Cite the use of outside sources.</li> <li>● Seek assistance when learning to cite sources.</li> <li>● Acknowledge and articulate the help received from parents, older siblings, friends, and group members on all work.</li> </ul>
<b>Parent/Guardian Responsibilities</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Encourage students to seek assistance from teachers when having trouble with completing assignments, homework, and projects at home.</li> <li>● Establish open communication with their child’s teacher(s) regarding expectations around completion of work at home.</li> <li>● Emphasize the importance of their child(ren) creating authentic work.</li> <li>● Allow students to complete all assignments, homework, and projects at home independently*.</li> </ul>
<b>Teachers and Staff Responsibilities</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Model for students, academic honesty in their own work.</li> </ul>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Develop the necessary skills and mindset to ensure students learn how to incorporate outside sources in their original work.</li><li>● Check submitted work for academic integrity.</li><li>● Communicate with parents/guardians and IB coordinator about supports needed to ensure students uphold academic integrity.</li><li>● Monitor and document communications with all stakeholders regarding students who need additional support developing authentic work.</li></ul>
<b>IB Coordinator Responsibilities</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Model academic integrity across the school community.</li><li>● Support teachers in identifying developmentally appropriate opportunities to increase students' awareness and understanding of academic integrity.</li><li>● Provide professional development on academic integrity in the Primary Years Programme.</li><li>● Support students to develop the necessary skills to practice academic integrity in their lives.</li></ul>
<b>Administration Responsibilities</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Model academic integrity across the school community.</li><li>● Providing additional professional development opportunities for teachers and staff on academic integrity.</li><li>● Supporting students, teachers, and parents/guardians in the event of academic dishonesty.</li></ul>

\*Students in Pre-Kindergarten through second grade may require support from adults when completing authentic work. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to allow their children to express their own original thoughts and ideas, to complete work on their own to the greatest extent possible, and to support students in the process by providing the appropriate scaffolds, which may include visual supports, modeling, and dictation of the child's ideas.

### **Section 3: Primary Years Programme Guidelines**

#### **Academic Honesty in the Primary Years Programme**

The IBO states that within the PYP, schools should “assist students in developing personal responsibility for learning,” while employing “the use of the approaches to learning (ATL) skills across the curriculum to further develop the tools necessary to maintain academic honesty.” To this end, Agassiz teachers and staff strive to provide students with the support to develop these skills and concrete examples of academic honesty throughout their IB journey.



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The **Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills** include:

**Self-Management Skills**

- With teacher guidance and support, begin to organize research and information.
- Take notes using your own words and demonstrate one's ability to paraphrase.

**Social Skills**

- Work collaboratively with others to share information and learn from one another.

**Research Skills**

- Look for and read books, print materials, and digital resources in order to gain new information.

**Thinking Skills**

- Integrate and synthesize information from a variety of sources to form new, independent ideas.
- Understand that plagiarism and copying are forms of academic dishonesty.

**Communication Skills**

- Communicate new learning in their own words.

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Exhibition**

The culmination of the PYP is expressed in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade exhibition, which reflects the learning and growth of an IB learner. A student's work during 5<sup>th</sup> grade exhibition demonstrates their ability to synthesize and apply their understanding of academic honesty by:

- Planning their own independent or small group inquiry.
- Creating a central idea to guide their inquiry.
- Identifying credible sources of information and acknowledging the work of others.
- Working collaboratively with others to share and provide information.
- Planning for meaningful action as a result of their learning.
- Communicating and presenting original work to the school community.

**Academic Dishonesty**

At Agassiz Elementary School, academic dishonesty is seen as a learning opportunity for students. In the event a student demonstrates academic dishonesty:

- The teacher will determine whether the student is lacking the necessary ATL skills to be successful and/or if the act was deliberate. The student will receive additional guidance and support from their teacher.
- Teachers will also provide the student with an opportunity to rectify the situation.



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In the event of additional acts of academic dishonesty:

- The teacher and IB coordinator will meet with the student and their parents/guardians to determine the additional supports needed. This may include a personal learning goal with ongoing counseling by Agassiz teachers and staff to ensure the student understands the importance of academic honesty and adheres to the guidelines around producing original work.

#### **Section 4: Acknowledgements**

IBO. (2014) *Academic honesty in the IB educational context*. Cardiff. IBO.

IBO. (2018) *Primary Years Programme Principles into Practice: The Learner*. Cardiff. IBO.

The Skagerak International School  
<https://www.skagerak.org>

The Magellan International School  
<https://www.magellanschool.org>

Daystar Academy  
<https://www.daystaracademy.org>

Ogden International School of Chicago  
<http://ogden.cps.edu>