At the heart of an academic community is the firm belief in intellectual honesty and integrity. Scholars, no matter how young, do their own work; and when they are asked to consider the thoughts of others, they give credit where credit is due.

The Louisiana School will expect honesty and integrity from you in your studies. For the School to be a community of learners and for you to become the truly superior student we want you to be, it could ask no less. Your membership in this community demands that you know and live up to your specific responsibilities.

Although all of your instructors expect this honesty and integrity from you, they may differ slightly in their specific expectations of you; or one teacher's expectations may even differ slightly from assignment to assignment. For example, sometimes it may be acceptable for you to work together in groups on an out-of-class assignment; other times it may not. One instructor may allow you to solicit criticism on an essay from your roommate; another may not. Each instructor will define his or her specific expectations. Be certain that you understand them. If you are having difficulty with an out-of-class assignment on which you have been told not to collaborate, do not succumb to the temptation of getting help from someone in the residence hall. Remember that your instructors have office hours and are in the high school building during Guided Study to give you extra help. Consult them.

Some expectations are, of course, constant. Do your own work on tests and quizzes. Out-of-class work that you turn in must be your work and only your work, unless you have been given permission to collaborate. When you use secondary sources in writing a paper, you must reference any use you make of your sources. Putting another's idea in your own words is just as much plagiarism as is quoting the source word-for-word: both need to be cited. Ignorance is not an excuse for plagiarism. If you do not understand your obligations in documenting sources, talk with your teacher.

You also have a general obligation to your school and ultimately to yourself. If you have evidence of cheating in any class, you shall report the incident on an Honor Code Incident Report available in the office of the director of academic services. Subsequent action will be taken in accordance with the Louisiana School Honor Code. (The following fact patterns provide examples of “evidence” for the purpose of the Honor Code. It is not an exclusive list, but rather serves as an illustration. (1) Your roommate tells you that he got a copy of the exam ahead of time. (2) You overhear two students talking about how they used a “cheat sheet” on an exam. (3) Looking at a friend’s paper for class, you recognize it as part of an article you read on the internet or in a magazine, but there is no attribution or citation to the author. (4) During your last exam, when the instructor stepped out of the room, two of your fellow students shared ideas about the test.)