



Academic Support Center

Avoiding Plagiarism

What is plagiarism?

From a Latin word for “kidnapper,” **plagiarism** is the presentation of someone else’s **words or ideas** as your own. It often occurs in student papers, sometimes through intentional cheating, but more often through the simple lack of knowledge of the rules of proper documentation of research materials.

- Plagiarism is a **form of theft**—of ideas and words rather than of physical possessions.
- Whether deliberate or accidental, plagiarism is **taken very seriously** by the academic world.
- Plagiarism is often a **punishable offense**.

Central Catholic High School Statement on Plagiarism

Plagiarism occurs when a student attempts to present as his own what has come from another source; for example, using ideas of another person, paraphrased or not, without giving credit to that source; rewriting borrowed material through minor word or sentence adjustments; presenting as one’s own a paper, project, or assignment that has been partially or completely prepared by another person, whether a relative, friend, fellow student, alumnus, or an employee of an online service or other business that produces such work, and so on (Academic Integrity Committee).

Central Catholic High School Statement on Academic Integrity

Central Catholic High School is a community of scholars and learners committed to the pursuit of truth. We strive toward this noble end animated by honor, a virtue that calls forth from us all a deep measure of honesty, trustworthiness, fairness, and respect for the human dignity of all persons. Academic integrity is the foundation of teaching and learning at Central Catholic and, as a Man of Faith, each student in this community shares with the faculty, staff, and administration a common responsibility for the cultivation of a climate of integrity (Academic Integrity Committee).

Central Catholic High School Policy on Plagiarism

A student who plagiarizes will receive both a grade of zero for the assignment and disciplinary sanctions (*Student Handbook*).