

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING TEAM REPORT

School Year: 2015-2016

PLT Title

Academic Dishonesty in the 21st Century Classroom

Blurb for PLT Conference Brochure

We updated the academic honesty section of the Student Handbook and surveyed high school teachers and counselors about their thoughts and experiences regarding student cheating and plagiarism.

Contact Information *(Write * next to facilitator's name.)*

Name	School	Grade Level or Subject
*Suzanne Lijek	BHS	Biology, grade 11
Ben Delorio	BHS	Math
Brian Dunn	BHS	Latin
Pat Partridge	BHS	Biology, grades 11 and 12
Ashley Landry	BHS	Librarian

PLT SMART Goal

In this two-year PLT, we will focus on cheating at BHS. We will define cheating, research its prevalence at BHS and nationally, and come up with strategies to help teachers and students address this area of concern. Ultimately, we would like to help create an overt culture of honesty and ethical behavior at BHS to help students internalize these behaviors at all times.

This PLT Goal is also

- A Professional Practice Goal
- A Student Learning Goal
- Neither

Key Actions

Year 1 - Collect data, organize and present data

Year 2 - Summarize strategies, present recommendations.

Findings

--There is a large discrepancy between the percentage of students who admit to cheating and the percentage who teachers suspect of cheating. This may be a result of a difference of opinion on the definition of cheating.

--Students are more likely to distinguish between cheating and plagiarism than teachers.

-- Most students do admit that a fair amount of cheating goes on, the main reason of which is pressure to perform well academically.

-- In the student survey, we asked, "How do you think the current BHS attitude towards cheating and plagiarism affects the school's culture?" This quote from the student survey sums up the sentiment of many of the responses we received. "I feel like the greater effect is the schools culture on cheating and plagiarism- I've found that at BHS people are much more worried about the repercussions of a bad grade or not getting homework done than those of cheating."

Recommendations / Next Steps

- Create tips for teachers when dealing with possible cheating/plagiarism and how to create an ethical culture in the classroom.
- Create tips for students: what is cheating?
- Work with administration to increase student awareness and impact of cheating
- Update academic dishonesty section of the student handbook.