Honor Code: Sample

We, the students, herein mandate the standard of honor by which students should conduct themselves within the school community. Stealing, lying, and cheating are unacceptable within our community. The school is a place of high integrity and in keeping with the philosophy of the school, any breach of this Honor Code may result in serious consequences (including possible dismissal).

- Stealing involves taking something that belongs to another without his knowledge and prior explicit permission

- Lying is the intentional misrepresentation of facts for personal gain, or in order to protect the interests of others

- Cheating is any form of academic dishonesty. It occurs when one uses and takes credit for the work of another person, whether the material be directly copied or superficially disguised (plagiarism). Cheating also includes the divulgence of the contents of a graded evaluation.

In the event of an infraction of this Honor Code, the alleged offender must go before the Honor Committee. The Honor Committee is to be comprised of seven members, six students and the Academic Dean, who serves as chair. None of the members of the Honor Committee may serve on the Discipline Committee.

With regards to any change of this Honor Code: all proposed amendments must originate from the student body. In order to pass, an amendment must receive a 2/3rds majority of the voting students.

Finally, it is our intent that this Honor Code makes each student responsible for his or her own actions, constantly reminding us of the value of good judgment and of the importance of absolute integrity.

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Faculty Notes on the Honor Code

At the Sunday evening advisee desserts in faculty homes, following convocation, faculty advisors initiate the discussions of the honor code via reactions to the story "So Much Unfairness of Things." This session is meant to be one part of Honor Code orientation (it follows an honor committee panel with new students and the honor book signing in Chapel), and we need all advisors to contribute their leadership and their support.

Suggestions for the discussion:

1. Ask the advisee group to synopsize the story, to answer questions about it (e.g., What compelled P.S. to cheat? Why did Jumbo turn in P.S. for cheating? How is this school's Honor Code different from that of the VPS school in the story? What should someone do if witness to an honor offense? If called before the HC or DC?).

2. Please cover the following points:

I. The Honor Code is student-written and administered. Spring elections to Honor Committee.

II. During exams (and perhaps at other times), faculty are asked to require student's to sign the Honor Pledge.

III. When facing an honor temptation: "Find another way" rather than lie, cheat, or steal

IV. The Honor Code different from the school in the story: no obligation to report; usually a two-chance system.

V. How Honor Committee and Discipline Committee meetings work: advisor as advocate; student may say "I prefer not to answer that," but must not equivocate.

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Author: Pomfret School Honor Code, 10/91