STEM Middle School Plagiarism / Cheating Policy

Plagiarism is taking someone else’s work and passing it off as your own. It can be done by directly copying something from another student, copying it directly from a book resource, or taking it word for word from an internet source. It is considered plagiarizing if the student does not give credit to the source by directly citing the source or by not mentioning the source of the information in his/her writing/project. Paraphrasing sources and trying to pass the information off as your own original work is also considered plagiarizing.

Cheating is acting dishonestly or unfairly in order to get ahead or to get an advantage on a test, on homework, or in a game. Looking at another student’s paper for “help” is cheating. Taking another person’s paper to “check” if you are doing it correctly is cheating. “Working together” with another student on an assignment that results in identical work is cheating. Cheating can be verified after the fact by a teacher based on these definitions.

Consequences for plagiarizing and cheating: There is no place for plagiarizing or cheating at STEM Middle School. If a student is caught in either act, it will result in a zero on that assignment. A student may resubmit his/her own work/retake within a set number of days set forth by the teacher, but only for 50% total grade. This includes any formative or summative assignment: homework, essays, projects, and/or tests.

NOTE: Sharing Google documents with another student is only acceptable when both students have completed an essay and it is ready for a peer edit or if it is part of an assignment that the teacher gives (i.e. creating a shared Google Doc with your group to take collaborative notes). Students should not share documents to give others “ideas”.