

Academic Cheating

Group work isn't cheating, CHS administration need to recongize the difference

The Policies Need To Change

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Opinion Editor

Grades have become the main focus for students, rather than education. Since there is less disapproval and increased competition for admission into colleges, some students feel the need to do whatever it takes to get an A due to the pressure of wanting/needing high grades.

So, what is considered cheating in CHS? According to the CHS student handbook, "Work that is submitted for credit or recognition is to be done by each individual student and must be his or her own work." "One time, I got called down to the office for sharing my powerpoints with other people that didn't understand what the teacher was teaching. The teacher only graded them when she found out that we were sharing them," said sophomore Alayna Wagner. "I didn't cheat, I was simply helping my peers out, since I already learned the stuff that she was teaching about at my old school."

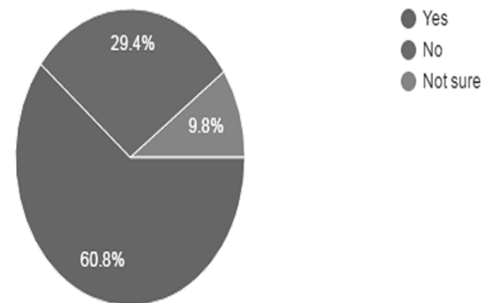
CHS needs to do more to distinguish group work from cheating. Group work has a lot of benefits for high school students. According to Carnegie Mellon University

researchers, group projects can help students develop a host of skills that are increasingly important in the professional world. However, properly structured group projects can reinforce skills that are relevant to both group and individual work, and that includes the ability to: plan and manage time, develop stronger communication skills, challenge assumptions, refine understanding through discussion and explanation, and to break complex tasks into parts and steps.

Make no mistake, cheating is wrong. Still, we're expected to attend eight classes a day for seven and a half hours, keep a high GPA, turn our homework in the next day, and not go crazy. But then again, what are we supposed to do, fail? I feel that if teachers allowed more group work, students would feel less intimidated by the expectations that we have and we would feel less stressed.

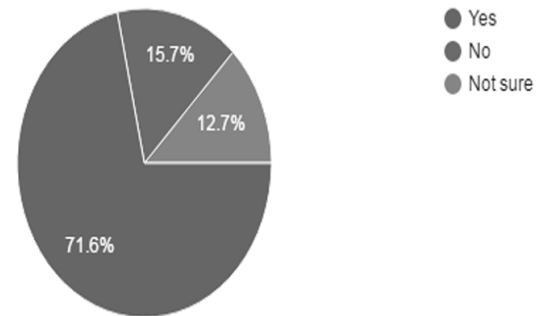
To improve our education, teachers should promote more group work in their classrooms and the administration should change the definition of academic cheating in the student handbook and to be more careful with what they consider cheating, as opposed to group work and students helping other students with the material.

Have you ever cheated on a homework assignment or a test? (102 responses)



CHS STUDENTS

Do you know of someone who has cheated to get through school? (102 responses)



CHS STUDENTS

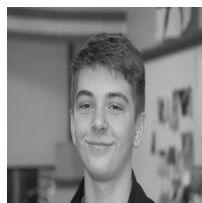
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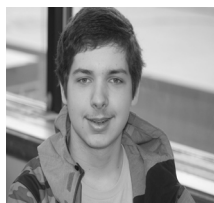
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Have you ever cheated on an assignment and why?



"Yes, the teacher wasn't doing a good enough job. I felt like it was only fair."

Freshman
Will Swarthout



"No, I don't want to lose any points and I don't want to get an F on the assignment."

Freshman
Steven Adams



"Yes, I knew I was going to fail the assignment and not get it done on time."

Senior
Carlie Schaeffer



"Yes, I didn't understand what I was doing and my teacher wouldn't help."

Junior
Megan Schultz