



Roland Park Country School

HONOR CODE

2009 - 2010

September 2009

Dear Upper School,

It's great to see all of my Honor Buddies once again! I would also like to welcome all of the new faces. Though the summer's over and we must get back into the academic groove, I hope that we are all ready and willing to accept our duties and responsibilities as Roland Park Country School students.

I know, perhaps from my own experience, that this thin booklet often becomes another crumpled item at the bottom of your locker that is practically unrecognizable by the time June rolls around. I'm not asking you to treasure this booklet for the rest of your life or consult it every day religiously, but rather read it and understand its purpose. Our school's honor code is outlined clearly so we know exactly what is expected of us when we walk through those double doors each morning. And whenever we start to lose sight of that purpose, we have an abundance of resources to guide us on our way.

Please remember that, in addition to the Red Book and this booklet, your Honor Board members are resources as well. We are not a police force hiding behind every corner attempting to catch one of our fellow classmates breaking a major school rule. Our aim is to ensure that every student comes to understand the importance of honesty and integrity. As humans, we are not perfect and naturally, mistakes are to be made. Consequences serve as a learning opportunity and a chance to grow—not a mere punishment.

Too soon, we will all be absorbed by our numerous assignments and busy schedules. This does not mean that we should lose sight of the honorable, and often rocky, path when faced with a seemingly smoother or easier one. We can all work together to bring out each other's best and be there to support when someone is faced with a difficult situation. I sincerely hope that Honor Board can work more closely with the entire Upper School student body this year to establish a more positive relationship. Please don't hesitate to consult your Honor Board members because, though our job is disciplinary action, we are your peers, first and foremost.

Your Honor Board President,

Mahuhu Attenoukon

**This booklet originated in 2002 and has been written/updated
by subsequent Honor Board members.**

**WRITTEN BY STUDENTS
FOR STUDENTS!**

HONOR: DEFINITION, APPLICATION, INSPIRATION

DEFINITION

HONOR: 1. Esteem due or paid to worth; high estimation; respect; consideration; reverence; veneration; manifestation of respect or reverence. 2. That which rightfully attracts esteem, respect, or consideration; self-respect; dignity; courage; fidelity; especially, excellence of character; high moral worth; virtue; nobleness; integrity; uprightness; trustworthiness.

Source: *Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary*, © 1996, 1998 MICRA, Inc.

APPLICATION

(See Red Book) "Developing and maintaining this spirit of honesty and trust is the task of all students and faculty. It is clear that honorable conduct must pervade all actions and relationships of students, faculty, and staff of the school. **It is only because of this principle of honor that RPCS Upper School students enjoy a creative and flexible routine, a relaxed atmosphere, and many freedoms and privileges.**"

INSPIRATION

"She had never been able to tolerate dishonesty, which she felt threatened the very heart of relationships between people. If you could not count on other people to mean what they said, or to do what they said, or to do what they said they would do, then life could become utterly unpredictable. The fact that we could trust one another made it possible to undertake the simple task of life."

- *Alexander McCall Smith (Author of The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency)*

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HONOR OFFENSES SUMMARY

Allegations of breaking the Major School Rules and the Violation of any of the Major School Rules will result in an Honor Board hearing or an Administrative Review.*

These are the Major School Rules; see the Red Book for a full description of them.

DISHONESTY (including lying to Honor Board)

CHEATING

PLAGIARISM

STEALING

DRUGS & ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

(see also the general information section of the Red Book)

SMOKING

CATEGORY III NETWORK VIOLATIONS

STUDENT SAFETY

COMMUNITY STANDARDS

Roland Park students are required to uphold RPCS standards on the Bryn Mawr and Gilman campuses as well.

Honor Board Procedures are outlined in the Red Book.

*Administrative Review: A student who is alleged to have broken a major school rule can choose to appear (alone) before the Upper School Head and the Upper School Dean of Students instead of before Honor Board. There is no appeal process in place if the student makes this choice.

Tri-School Statement on Academic Integrity (See the Red Book)

Education is a collaborative process that has as its foundation the notion that individual participants – both teachers and students – forge a partnership based on mutual trust. It is only in such an atmosphere that meaningful education can take place. It is the expectation that all members of the Bryn Mawr, Gilman, and Roland Park Country School communities will live up to school standards and engage in academic pursuits with honor and integrity.

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STUDENT PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING:

If you witness a major school rule being violated or have reason to believe that one has been violated you can:

1. Talk to an Honor Board Representative (such as your class vice president or representative)
2. Report your concerns to a faculty member or administrator
3. Confront the offender/ potential offender and ask her to report herself
4. Additionally, students who have broken a major school rule are also encouraged to turn themselves in.

There is no consequence for failing to report an honor board offense; however, we encourage you to value your responsibility to the larger community. Everything possible will be done to insure your confidentiality.

SITUATIONAL EXAMPLES OF STUDENT REPORTING:

You are walking down the hallway, and you hear two students discussing a test. You know that one student has taken the test and the other one has not. Because you think this is a violation of the major school rule of cheating, you decide to report it to the Upper School Dean of Students.

A RPCS student comes to a tri-school dance very drunk. Though her friends initially try to hide her condition from the chaperones, they eventually realize that their friend is in a lot of trouble physically, so they bring her to an administrator.

RPCS and OFF-CAMPUS BEHAVIOR:

Additionally, RPCS “reserves the right to take disciplinary measures in the event that any inappropriate off-campus behavior by one of its students is brought to the school’s attention.” (See Red Book)

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CONSEQUENCES

After a student tells her story to Honor Board and all the facts are determined, Honor Board deliberates on what the student's consequences should be. Students who serve on honor board discuss the case and take into consideration precedent and student history (if any) with Honor Board, or cases in the past that relate to the present case. Although Honor Board is able to determine consequences based on the specific case under consideration, there is also an established list of consequences. Usually Honor Board members work through the list of consequences, ruling out consequences that do not relate to the specific case. Honor Board can also decide to acquit a student.

Consequence Possibilities:

1. Assignment to detention
2. Assignment to school or community service
3. Written assignment
4. Meeting with School counselor (required)
5. Disciplinary Probation
6. Suspension
7. Expulsion
8. Other (appropriate to the offense)

If a majority of Honor Board agrees on a consequence, their recommendation is made to the Head of School. The Head of School may either accept the decision or ask Honor Board to reconsider the decision. Once Honor Board and the Head of School agree with the consequences, the student is informed. At a later Morning Meeting, the Honor Board President announces the decision to the student body without disclosing the student's name, grade or any specifics of the case which would reveal the student's identity. Honor Board students also take the same pledge of confidentiality.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – HONOR BOARD BOOKLET

Will colleges know if I went before Honor Board?

Our college counselors will automatically and consistently disclose suspensions in their official recommendations. Students who have been suspended may write an essay as part of their college application that shows their reflection on the event and their growth. Many colleges require applicants to disclose any expulsions or suspensions, and some will ask about probation or other disciplinary consequences the student has received.

Why do we have an Honor Board?

Our school has a system based on trust, and when we feel that that trust has been violated, there must be consequences for the infraction. Also, our Honor Board is unique in that students have a choice between an administrative review or appearing before Honor Board.

Why can't you tell us what happens?

The student who appears before Honor Board is the only one who has the right to disclose the details of her case. The confidentiality pledge protects this right (see confidentiality pledge section). However, announcements of all cases and consequences are read by the Honor Board President in Morning Meeting, keeping the name, grade and the specifics of the case confidential.

What is disciplinary probation?

(For full description see the Red Book) In short, students on probation will receive **much** more severe punishments if found guilty by Honor Board of a new offense. Probation is an aid to encourage a student to use better judgement in decision making.

Do I have to face Honor Board alone?

No - you can ask your parent(s)/guardian(s) and/or advisor to come with you for support. You can ask that a witness be brought in on your behalf, but the witness will speak to Honor Board by herself.

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CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT AND PLEDGE

Part of the responsibility of being on Honor Board is maintaining confidentiality in all proceedings. We firmly believe in protecting every student and her interests. At the start of each case, the student is notified that her case will be kept completely confidential. We encourage students to keep the matter of their case between themselves, their families, and their advisors. After a decision has been made, the Upper School community is informed of the case, but the student's name, grade and specifics of the case are not revealed. The only people aware of the case specifics are the student herself, her advisor, all honor board members, the Upper School Head, the Head of School, and, occasionally, any other student or faculty member associated with the case. If other people are aware of the case specifics, it should not be assumed that the information was disclosed by Honor Board members. The pledge ensures the maintaining of confidentiality by all Honor Board members.

As members of Honor Board, we hereby promise to maintain confidentiality regarding all Honor Board proceedings.

President: Mahuhu Attenoukon

Vice President: Angela Leasca

12th Grade Reps: Ann Friddell, Blair Davis

11th Grade Reps: Mattie Meredith, Meghan Herwig

10th Grade Reps: Gretchen Catlin, Cameron O'Brian

9th Grade Reps: Catherine Crozier, Hooper Neale

Faculty members: Ms. Twist, Ms. Allen, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Goetsch

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HONOR BOARD MEMBERS 2009-2010

STUDENT ROSTER:



President
Mahuhu Attenoukon



Vice President
Angela Leasca



12th VP
Ann Friddell



12th Rep.
Blair Davis



11th VP
Mattie Meredith



11th Rep.
Meghan Herwig



10th VP
Gretchen Catlin



10th Rep.
Cameron O'Brien



9th VP
Catherine Crozier



9th Rep.
Hooper Neale

FACULTY ROSTER:



Faculty Sponsors:
Leslie Goetsch



Faculty Sponsors:
Kelsey Twist



Dean of Students
Ms. Allen



US Head
Mrs. Smith
(does not vote, but is present and carries recommendations to Mrs. Brune)

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HONOR PLEDGE

I understand that it is in the best interest of our Upper School community at RPCS if I choose to be an honorable person in my words, actions, and relationships. I have read this booklet and understand that it is our goal – both students and adults alike – to function in an atmosphere of honesty, flexibility, and trust. I will strive to be an honorable person, and I understand that there will be consequences if I violate the major school rules.

*When I sign the honor pledge, **“I have acted honorably,”** I am giving my word that I am an honorable person.*

Student Signature

Date

