

## **Weaver Academy**

### **Definition and Consequences of Plagiarism**

Dear Art Students and Parents:

As an art department, we try to encourage the development of life skills that go beyond 'art making,' such as creative problem solving, collaboration, original thinking, self-discipline and self-assessment. The process of art-making involves all of these skills to some degree, and as a process, is something we hope students develop individually. We have always stressed originality and are determined to teach students to be both original in thought and resourceful in their research initiated during the art-making process.

We have continuous conversations concerning the use of reference material in class and have often had checkpoints in place to assess where students are in the development of their ideas. We would like to be sure that everyone understands the appropriate use of source material and the consequences of 'visual plagiarism.' Below is a culmination of research into the legal use of others' intellectual property (images).

- **There is *no* time when it is appropriate to copy a photograph or piece of artwork from another artist and be used as the student's 'own work.'** The only exception is when a teacher lets students use a photo to do a value study of another artist's work, and ***this should be considered a study and not an original work.*** A good analogy would be when a student writes another's idea in their own words in a paper: it may be the student's words, but it is *the idea* that must be credited as someone else's. Because of the unlimited supply of imagery on the internet, it is easy to fall into the place where an image is copied. Reference material should be just that; for example, it is o.k. to use a pose of a figure from an image, but everything else about the image should be absent from the final piece. ***Ultimately, if the source material for the piece can be recognized from the student image (usually copying subject and composition), the piece cannot be used.***

After an assignment and expectations are made clear, there will be 'check points' during the creation process of the piece to see what sources the students are working from. If there is a question about a source, the student will not be allowed to use it and will have to find another reference. If a student is working at home on a piece, they must bring in all source material prior to the completion of the piece so the art teachers can check that we are complying with the rules.

Consequences for deliberately using another's image will follow the GCS Student Handbook for Cheating (Rule 3, p. 22 in Handbook):

- **For a first offense:** in-school disciplinary action up to 3 days OSS and a grade of zero on the assignment.
- **For a second offense:** in-school disciplinary action up to 3 days OSS and a grade of zero on the assignment. Students will not be allowed to make up the work. Recommendation to return to student's home school.

Please contact Mr. Cozart or Ms. Woods if you have any questions and/or need clarification. We appreciate your support in our efforts to make your child's visual arts education the best it can be!

Steve Cozart

Lisa Woods

I \_\_\_\_\_ have read and understand the description of visual plagiarism and the consequences for deliberately using another's work as their own.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature