Cybersecurity: Academic Integrity and Ethics Agreement

Bear Creek High School, 2024-25

Academic integrity is taken as seriously in Computer Science as it is in all other courses at Bear Creek High School. The Jefferson County Public Schools student and family code of conduct says:

> "When engaged in learning activities, students should demonstrate the discipline necessary to seek guidance from their instructor rather than resorting to inappropriate behaviors that may undermine their own academic and personal development. This is a shared responsibility of all students, families, teachers, and staff."

This is especially true in computer science and cybersecurity, where the ability to find code written by someone else or generated by an artificial intelligence (AI) program is getting easier each day.

In the 2023-2024 school year, The College Board introduced a fairly permissive policy surrounding the use of AI in AP Computer Science classes, reflecting the shifting attitudes around AI's use in education. The policy states:

> "AP Computer Science students are permitted to utilize generative AI tools as supplementary resources for understanding coding principles, assisting in code development, and debugging. This responsible use aligns with current guidelines for peer collaboration on developing code.
>
> Students should be aware that generative AI tools can produce incomplete code, code that creates or introduces biases, code with errors, inefficiencies in how the code executes, or code complexities that make it difficult to understand and therefore explain the code. It is the student's responsibility to review and understand any code co-written with AI tools, ensuring its functionality. Additionally, students must be prepared to explain their code in detail, as required on the end-of-course exam."

This means that, in essence, the use of AI tools **is permitted** for code generation, explanation, and debugging in this course. However, know that AI is not perfect, and that the burden is still very much on you as the programmer to ensure that you understand the code you submit and that it is correct.

1 What is allowed in this course

Throughout all Computer Science classes at Bear Creek High School, you have the right to:

- Discuss your work and ideas with your peers, in English, using a whiteboard, using pen and paper, or using manipulatives.

- Search the internet for specific syntax questions (e.g. "how do I find the index of a list element in C++?") or use any official documentation to that effect.

- Show your code to the course instructor for specific style, syntax, or algorithmic questions.

- Access the software you write in this course in perpetuity, and use it for future projects of your own.

- Use your course computer as a sandbox for experimentation and academically-appropriate research.

- Consult AI for assistance in writing, debugging, and understanding code, **so long as you note your use of AI in the code you submit.**

2 What is not allowed in this course

Throughout all Computer Science classes at Bear Creek High School, you **may not**:

- Look at or copy a peer's code for an individual project.

- Post or share your individual solution to a project online.

- Claim that the work of another student, that of someone you found online, or code generated by an AI program is your own. **Using AI to generate code without citing it in your final submission falls into this category and is considered a violation of academic integrity akin to copying the work of a peer.**

- Use your course computer as a tool for the disruption or destruction of other systems or of other students' work.

I will compare student submissions to those of other students, to those of previous students, and to code samples found online. I also reserve the right to ask students to individually explain their code, under the expectation that no student should (or could) write and submit software that they cannot explain.

Especially in the case of AI-generated code, you should anticipate being asked to explain your code in depth. Whether or not you individually write the code does not change the fact that you must completely understand the code you submit.

3 Additional considerations for cybersecurity

Cybersecurity is a relatively new field, and schools and districts are still learning how to teach it effectively, safely, and within the bounds of broad network policies. In 2024-25, only two schools in Jefferson County have been approved to offer this course, which speaks to our professionalism as a school. There is, however, a great burden of responsibility that comes with this: in this course, you will learn things that are dangerous and can be exploited to do anything from annoy friends to commit large-scale felonies. **You must use what you learn in this class responsibly.**

I will protect and advocate for your right to learn dangerous things carefully, and I will explicitly name and document my consent when we learn to do things that are not permitted in typical Jeffco networking settings, like reading packets or penetrating insecure systems.

If, however, you choose to exploit what you learn in this class for your own gain or enjoyment; for the disruption of systems; to steal money or personal information; to inhibit the day-to-day activities or another person or people; or to otherwise compromise the security of any system without authorization, I will immediately seek out your removal from the course and I will report your actions to the Bear Creek administration, to The College Board, and to law enforcement.

Any suspicion of a violation of academic integrity will be immediately reported to the Bear Creek High School administration and to The College Board where applicable, and the student(s) involved will immediately and permanently receive a grade of zero for the relevant assignment.

Please sign and date below to indicate that you understand these expectations and will comply with them throughout this course.

Print Name	Signature	Date