

Maria Montessori Academy – Student Use of AI Tools Policy

Policy Overview

As technology evolves, AI-based tools can enhance learning, creativity, and critical thinking. Maria Montessori Academy recognizes the potential of these tools while emphasizing the importance of responsible, ethical, and independent learning practices. This policy defines the acceptable and unacceptable use of AI tools by students to ensure academic integrity is upheld.

Definitions

- **AI-Based Tools:** Digital platforms, software, or applications that use artificial intelligence to assist with tasks such as writing, researching, solving problems, studying, or generating content.
- **Academic Integrity:** Upholding honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility in academic work. This includes avoiding cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, or misrepresentation.

Acceptable Use of AI Tools

Students may use AI tools when they:

- **Support Learning:** Use AI to explore or reinforce concepts, practice skills, or receive explanations aligned with curriculum goals.
- **Aid Research:** Use AI to gather background information or generate ideas, provided they verify the accuracy and reliability of the content.
- **Encourage Inquiry:** Use AI as a springboard for asking questions or developing their own insights, rather than substituting it for their own thinking.

Unacceptable Use of AI Tools

The following uses are not permitted:

- **Plagiarism:** Submitting AI-generated content without proper acknowledgment or representing it as one's own original work.
- **Unauthorized Assistance:** Using AI to complete assessments, tests, or assignments intended to reflect individual effort or skill.
- **Fabrication or Misrepresentation:** Using AI to falsify sources, generate inaccurate content, or misrepresent understanding or achievement.
- **Bypassing Learning:** Relying on AI in place of doing the learning work (e.g., using AI to

write an essay without engaging in the reading or research process).

Student Responsibilities

- **Cite AI Use:** Students must disclose the use of AI in their work and follow the instructor's or school's citation guidelines. (e.g., "This summary was generated using ChatGPT and edited by the student.")
- **Verify Information:** AI-generated content should be critically evaluated for accuracy, bias, and relevance.
- **Maintain Originality:** Final work must reflect the student's own thinking, learning, and voice.
- **Seek Clarification:** When in doubt about appropriate use, students must consult their teacher or advisor.

Consequences of Policy Violations

Violations of this policy will be addressed in accordance with the school's academic integrity and student conduct policies. Possible consequences include:

- A formal warning
- Re-submission of the assignment
- A grade penalty (including a zero)
- A failing grade in the course
- Additional disciplinary actions as appropriate

Acknowledgment

By enrolling at Maria Montessori Academy, students agree to uphold this AI Use Policy. This commitment helps ensure fairness, personal growth, and a respectful academic environment for all.