

# Honor Code

(April 16, 2021)

## Constitution of the Honor System of Baylor School

(adopted by the Student Body, May 1916, and amended in 1929, 1951, 1968, 1972, 1979, 1983, 1989, 2001, 2021).

In as much as we, the students of the Baylor School, believe that a great school, like any great institution, must of necessity rest on the foundations of truth and honor; that a lie is the most detestable thing of which a person may be guilty, and truth the greatest virtue which one may possess; and that this school should send out men and women who despise falsehood and prize honor more than all else;

Be it resolved that we the students of the year 1916, in the month of May, unanimously adopt the Honor System in our school; that we instruct the members of the Student Council to sign their names to this and the following resolutions as a token of the pledge of each class to uphold this Honor System; and that each succeeding student of this school on one's entrance must swear to keep and maintain one's standard of honor and automatically agrees to abide by the Honor Code both in letter and in spirit realizing that a plea of ignorance shall not be accepted;

Be it further resolved that the Honor System shall be a solemn and voluntary obligation on the part of the Baylor student body to live by the highest standards of truth and honor; and be it further obligation that each student observing a dishonorable act shall counsel with the offender in an effort to show the party the severity of dishonesty or report the offense to the Honor Council, for be it known that we do not want any person who will cheat, lie, steal, plagiarize, or falsify information in our midst;

Be it further resolved that a Student Honor Council be established for the purpose of encouraging honesty on the part of the students.

### **Article I**

#### Name

The name of the council shall be the Honor Council of the Baylor School.

### **Article II**

#### Purpose

The Honor Council has two purposes: the first being to preserve the integrity of the Honor System at Baylor by giving justice to any student under suspicion of dishonesty, by vindicating one's name if one is innocent, and by protecting the honor and standing of other students through appropriate punishment if one is found guilty; the second being to assist a guilty student in understanding the seriousness of dishonesty in an effort to help one build a more honorable character.

### **Article III**

#### Student Rights

An assumption of guilt is not necessarily equated with a request to meet the Honor Council. A student is innocent until proven guilty by the facts and convicted by a quorum of the Honor Council. A student's word is sacred and shall be taken until the student is proven guilty and therefore, dishonorable.

Furthermore, a student has several rights upon being called before the Honor Council. Students have the following rights:

1. When school is in session, to have a hearing as promptly as reasonably practicable under the circumstances after an accusation has been reported to the Honor Council Chair.
2. To request the presence of their adviser or a faculty member of their choice at the hearing.
3. To appeal their case to the Headmaster for reconsideration by the Honor Council.
4. To have the facts of their case kept in strictest confidence by members of the Honor Council unless the student requests that the minutes of the case be open to a specific concerned or involved person.

#### **Article IV**

##### **Membership of the Upper School Honor Council**

The Upper School Honor Council shall consist of fourteen (14) members:

**Four representatives from the senior class.**

**Three representatives from the junior class.**

**Three representatives from the sophomore class.**

**Two representatives from the freshman class.**

**Two at-large representatives.** The Associate Headmaster or a faculty member appointed by the Associate Headmaster shall be the adviser to the Upper School Honor Council.

**Of these fourteen,** to the extent possible, there should be at least four day students and at least four boarding students. There should be at least one lower class (9th or 10th grade) boarding and day student and at least three upper class (11th or 12th grade) boarding and day students. If these specifications are not met through the general voting process, members at-large will be selected from students who run for the Honor Council by the newly elected Honor Council to fulfill these specifications to the extent possible. If the specifications for boarding and day students are met through the general election, members at large will be one junior and one senior who earned the next highest number of votes after the students already elected to the council.

If not enough boarding or day students run for election to meet the above specifications, the specifications for boarding and day student quotas will not apply.

#### **Article V**

##### **Election of Members for Upper School Honor Council**

The elections will be held in such manner and in accordance with such procedures as shall be specified by the then serving Honor Council in consultation with the Associate Headmaster.

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Any representatives having two or more unexcused absences in consecutive meetings of the Honor Council may be removed from their position by a majority vote of the Council. In the event of such

removal, the Honor Council may, by a majority vote, appoint a replacement representative from the class of the student who was removed.

## **Article VI**

### Officers

The Upper School Honor Council shall elect from their number the following officers:

A chair who must be a senior, and if possible, have served one year previously on the Honor Council.

A vice-chair

A secretary

A clerk

## **Article VII**

### Duties of Officers

It shall be the duty of the chair to preside at all meetings of the Council; to investigate all accusations of violations of the Honor System; to report the results of investigations to the Honor Council; to arrange for the trial of any student accused, and to perform all duties pertaining to the office.

The vice-chair will assume the chair's duties in the chair's absence.

The secretary shall keep accurate minutes of all meetings and proceedings of all trials. These must be kept up to date in a permanent file.

The clerk shall summon the accused and witnesses in all trials.

It shall be the duty of each member of the Council to attend all meetings, to investigate all rumors which are heard, and to report results of investigations to the chair.

## **Article VIII**

### Meetings

No regular meetings of the Honor Council are required.

Special meetings may be called independently by the chair or at any time requested of the chair by the Associate Headmaster.

All meetings shall be conducted according to parliamentary procedure.

## **Article IX**

### Quorum

Ten members shall constitute a quorum of the Council. In case of trial, the verdict shall be "guilty" or "not guilty"; and ten (10) votes out of fourteen (14) will be necessary to convict the accused.

## **Article X**

### Publicity

Each year the Baylor **B Book** will contain a copy of the constitution. There will be an orientation program held at the beginning of each year for all students by the Upper School Honor Council.

#### **Article XI**

Amendments to this constitution shall require for their adoption the approval of a quorum of the Honor Council and ratification by a majority vote of the student body.

#### **Article XII**

Penalties dealt to those declared guilty shall be strongly recommended to the Associate Headmaster for discussion and approval.