

Cheating Crisis in America

Clearly a majority of students feel there is nothing wrong with cheating under certain circumstances. The students also reported that only one third have EVER had a serious conversation with their parents about cheating.

A survey conducted by a professor at Rutgers University found that a whopping 95 percent of high school students say they've cheated at some time by letting somebody copy their homework or cheated on a test.

A survey conducted in 2008 by the Josephson Institute Center for Youth Ethics confirms alarming rates of stealing, lying, and cheating among American teenagers. Perhaps what is most disturbing is that "entrenched habits of dishonesty" are evident, while 93% of teenagers report that they are satisfied with their personal ethics and character. Why?

1. The adults in their life cheat or bend the rules and the system tolerates it. Decent kids taking their lead from the adults,.
2. Tolerance by adults for small lies and cheating conveys that it is acceptable to learn the system and succeed in their studies any way they can.
3. Students are fearful of failure and not getting good grades because those grades determine their future.
4. One student sited that the teachers do not do a good job communication the material and don't care about the quality of their own teaching so why should they have to suffer and be responsible for the material.
5. Students are also pressured with too many activities.

How to teach character and ethics: Teaching character begins at home not in the classroom and our society today tends to encourage kids to cheat not understanding the implications for their future.

Students who cheat are more likely to be dishonest in other areas of their life. Cheating undermines the value of the degree they are earning- since they do not have competency in the material. Colleges take cheating seriously. Students who cheat will be expelled and their transcript reflect the reason.

One blogger stated it this way: "What we're doing is training the next generation of corporate pirates," he says. "If you think that what went on with Enron or WorldCom is bad, just wait. What's missing is some of this righteous indignation and moral outrage, plus a little genuine fear." There are even sites on the internet dedicated to teaching the art of cheating.

"One of the really big changes that we've seen in the last 20 years is that in the past if students got caught cheating, they would be ashamed. And their parents would be really ticked off at them," says University of San Diego professor Larry Hinman. "Now the parents are, if anything, angry at the institution for doing something that might blot their kids' records."

Besides talking to you children about the ethics of cheating you can ask them to be honest with you when they are having difficulty with a subject and offer to provide supplemental education in the form of tutoring. For more information on math and science tutoring call Math Support Services, Peggy Cannistraci 255 1730