

To our newest Dragon families,

On behalf of the Maggie Walker Honor Council, it is my privilege to welcome you to an outstanding community of students, parents, and faculty. My name is Vignya Bankuru, and I am Chair of the 2020-2021 Honor Council. While I understand that you are given a multitude of new information during this time, please allow me to discuss the most important pillar of this school's success: honor.

At Maggie Walker, we value honor for the integral role it plays in connecting our community. Becoming a member requires a greater understanding of what the Honor Code and our honor system entails. Within the text of our Code, students do not lie, cheat, steal, or plagiarize. In order to reinforce the importance of this Code and maintain our school's cherished level of honor, all members of our Dragon community (including students, parents, and faculty) are expected to uphold this atmosphere of integrity. The Honor Council and our Honor Code exist first and foremost for the purpose of promoting honesty and trust within our school. The Council acts as a "body of restorative justice." This means that our Council works to educate our fellow Dragons about the importance of honor and how it will affect our lives not only for the next four years, but for a lifetime.

Maggie Walker's unique honor system allows the faculty and students to have a deeper, more trusting relationship. This community of trust gives our students many opportunities not available to them at other schools. Students are free to eat lunch anywhere in the school building, leave class simply by signing out, and complete take-home assessments (including tests). In their senior year, students have the privilege of leaving campus during the school day to engage in a mentorship or spend Friday lunches off campus. These unique abilities of Maggie Walker students are made possible by our Honor Code and the mature students who uphold the principles of trust, integrity, and honor.

However, the abuse of these privileges comes with consequences. The Maggie Walker Honor Code includes a detailed process in which students who commit infractions will follow a standard procedure of adjudication. A student accused of a violation will be notified by Mr. Max Smith, Maggie Walker's Assistant Director and sponsor of the Honor council. The student then has the choice of following one of two routes; one of these routes passes through the school administration, while the other is reviewed by our student-run Honor Council. Upon reaching a verdict, disciplinary measures can occur in a variety of ways. This may include the completion of work detail, suspension from honor societies, and, in severe cases, recommendation of suspension or expulsion.

After reading this letter, it is my hope that you understand the importance of honor throughout the Maggie Walker community. While students may experience great pressures, there is no greater reward than prioritizing honor. We ask that parents encourage their students to value honor and honesty, as this will benefit them even in their years after Maggie Walker. Integrity is what makes our Dragon community so special, and we could not be more excited to welcome another class. Please take the time to read the student Handbook and review our Honor Code (Policy #4000), as it will play a vital role in the next four years. If at any point during your time at Maggie Walker you have a question about the honor code, please feel free to contact any member of our honor council. As always, stay honorable.

Sincerely,

Vignya Bankuru  
Honor Council Chair  
Class of 2021

Max Smith  
Honor Council Sponsor  
MLWGS Assistant Director