

# DEAR ABBY:

*Should I cheat occasionally or allow a friend to cheat off me?*

Dear To Cheat or Not to Cheat,

This is a tricky question! My first reaction is to say, "No, of course you should not cheat or allow anyone to cheat from you!" But after giving this some thought, I want to delve into this question a bit more. I think if everyone was honest they would say at some time in their lives they have cheated or allowed someone to cheat off them. Most of the time, it is something small and doesn't amount to much. However, a small seed usually grows into a big plant! The problem is that cheating is a quality that helps develop the character of a person. When we begin cheating, where do we draw the line? What happens when you become dependent upon that person and they aren't there? Cheating can become a habit, and habits turn into second nature and before the cheater knows it, it becomes a part of his or her daily life. Cheating makes a person untrustworthy. Cheating makes a person lazy. Cheating cheats the cheater out of knowledge and the pride of accomplishment.

So my answer is, don't allow bad habits to begin that will follow you for the rest of your life.

Stay True,  
Abby

## NTI

I have noticed that I've got to speak with more parents than ever before. While discussing the NTI assignments, I've also got to speak to them about their child's progress in school, what they have been struggling with, and make suggestions about how they can help their child. It's like having a parent/teacher conference."

Even parents, who are the most likely to be inconvenienced, are optimistic and believe NTI days are helpful. "NTI is very beneficial and I like that we get out early for summer," Chrissy Saylor, mother of 7th grader Hannah and 8th grader Noah B. Saylor explained.

Cottrell cited her second reason why she hopes NTI days are a success is because "A lot of times, during a regular school day, I don't get to help my two sons with their school work. But on NTI days, we gather around the table and we've had a blast working on their projects and they are having so much fun completing them. Especially when they get to build a colony or

a Jurassic Park in Minecraft." Some students totally agree with Mrs. Cottrell. For example, 7th grader Brett Roark spent over 6 hours enjoying building a basketball arena in his Minecraft World. According to a recent survey, 235 students said they would rather do NTI days at home, while 37 students said they would rather make up the snow days missed days in the summer.

Superintendent Mike Howard and Assistant Superintendent Brent Roark was interviewed Friday, stating, "We absolutely feel the NTI days have been an overwhelming success. The teachers' positive attitudes and their communication with parents were the cornerstone of the public's acceptance of this new way of delivering instruction. We believe this because of the responses from teachers and parents we have received have been overwhelmingly positive. We estimated that around 98% of the feedback has been either positive or at the very least understanding.

Furthermore, NTI days have not interfered with normal school op-

erations. They said, "NTI days are just a different way for teachers to provide instruction and for student to receive instruction. In many cases the project based NTI activities have allowed students to be more actively engaged than they were in the traditional classroom setting. NTI days are a new concept for our district and we will improve all of our packets this summer to address any errors, omissions, or misunderstandings contained in the current packets".

In conclusion, NTI days has become a widely accepted concept at Wallins Elementary School and beyond.



*Above: Third grader, Brayden Turner created a diorama that represents the African culture he had studied.*

*Right: Mr. Britton assisted 6th grader, Ethan Jones, during a recent Christmas program.*



Jeff Phillips

Alex Britton is a first year band director in the Harlan County School District, fresh out of college after graduating from Eastern Kentucky University. That college connection may be the very thing that led him to his innovative approach for growing the middle school band programs at his assigned schools. Britton is seeing success and credits assistance from area collegiate musicians and their professors as a factor.

Among those helping are Douglas Olenik, director of bands at Union College, and Shawn Sudduth, associate professor of music education at the

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