Korea: Educational Norms and Expectations

Copying/Plagiarism/Cheating

- There is no doubt that the high-stakes testing to get into a good university, high family expectations, and the multiple-choice format of the test, encourages cheating.

- The severity with which cheating/plagiarism is addressed depends very much on the particular school.

Class Attendance and Behavior

- Attendance is generally considered important in Korean schools. High school teachers track attendance; too many absences mean students cannot advance.

- However, once overseas, students accustomed to a lot of parental and educational supervision may handle their new freedom in irresponsible ways, including non-attendance.

- Students may “switch off” at times, apparently staring into space, and do not expect to be chastised for this behavior.

- Some students report that they study hard in the after-school academies, but sleep in their regular classes; one said “regular classes are important only when we take a test.”