

2021-2022 Middle School Ethics Bowl Case Set

To learn more about this event, please visit:

<https://sites.google.com/a/kentplace.org/new-jersey-middle-school-ethics-bowl/>

Cases Written by the Writing Committee:

Claire Cherill (8th grade student), Oliver Walker (8th grade student), Ed Solecki (teacher), Erik Kenyon (teacher), Barbara Ruth Cohn (graduate student), Maria Camila Castro Maldonado (graduate student) and Ariel Sykes (teacher)

And edited for final approval by the Middle School Ethics Bowl Executive Committee:

Karen Rezach, Roberta Israeloff, Deric Barber, Dustin Webster, and Ariel Sykes

Middle School Ethics Bowl Case Set 2021-2022

Case #4: School Transfer

Juan and his best friend Ari are in their last year of middle school. They have attended the same schools and have been best friends since third grade. Even though Juan wants to be an artist and Ari wants to be a biologist, they join and enjoy many of the same clubs and activities. They always have said that they will go to the same high school together.

A few months before they begin applying to high schools, Juan learns that a new school is opening in his district specifically designed for those interested in the arts. He asks his guidance counselor about it and learns that he would probably be accepted if he applied. He's very excited about this until he remembers that Ari expects that they will go to the same high school together. Juan wonders what he should do.

After thinking it over for a few days, he decides that he has to tell Ari about this new opportunity to apply to the art school. He hopes that Ari will understand. After all, they have talked about their career dreams with each other. However, during the talk, Ari becomes very upset. "What about our pact? We promised each other we'd go to high school together, like we always have!" Juan is surprised and very unhappy that Ari reacted this way.

Match Question: What should Juan do and why?

Study Questions:

1. How do we balance past promises with new opportunities?
2. What does it mean to be loyal to a friend?
3. What obligation, if any, does Juan have to Ari?