



St. Vincent-St. Mary High School

Student Wellness

Drug and Alcohol Prevention Policy

Philosophy

In the spirit of the Gospel, we are committed to educate the whole person; to lead and to serve, enlightening the mind, developing the body, touching the heart, and inspiring the soul.

St. Vincent-St. Mary promotes health and wellness in a supportive environment where the community demonstrates a commitment to a happy and healthy lifestyle. STVM is committed to maintaining a positive learning environment by fostering the physical, emotional, social, intellectual, and spiritual wellness of all its students.

Purpose

St. Vincent-St. Mary is invested in and cares about the health and wellness of its students. For this reason, we felt it necessary to implement a mandatory drug testing program. The purpose of this program is to prevent students from substance use NOT serve as punishment. The primary goal of this program is to deter use by giving students a reason to say no to the pressures of substance use. The secondary goal of this program is to detect substance use early on and provide solutions and support for those students that are in need.

Rationale

Many lifestyle behaviors that increase or decrease the risk of chronic disease and disability in adulthood are developed during adolescence. Substance use during adolescence is associated with adverse effects such as attention difficulty, memory loss, poor decision making, lack of motivation. Schools are one of the most efficient systems for reaching children to provide health service programs. By integrating health programs into day-to-day life we are establishing and reinforcing health minded decisions which will improve learning and achievement.

Policy

St. Vincent-St. Mary has employed a two-part policy concerning the use of drugs and alcohol by our students. The first component (The Health and Wellness Program) encourages all students to remain drug and alcohol free. The second component (The Disciplinary Program) is designed to intervene in the life of a student who chooses to bring drugs or alcohol onto campus. The tenure of this policy extends from the date of the student's enrollment at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School until the end of enrollment due to graduation or transfer. All students are subject to mandatory drug and alcohol testing at random times throughout the school year.

Drug and Alcohol Policy – Part 1: The Health and Wellness Program

St. Vincent-St. Mary strives to provide a healthy and safe learning environment for all students. Our goal is to empower students to make responsible choices to remain drug and alcohol free. To this end, all students at St. Vincent-St. Mary are subject to mandatory drug and alcohol screening at random times throughout the year.

Confidentiality

The results of all drug testing will be kept confidential, in accordance with written school policy and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act. Test results will not be documented in a student's academic record and will be destroyed in accordance with the school's document retention policy. The information gathered will be shared with parents and appropriate school administrators as needed and will be used to help students make positive choices.

Process of Testing

St. Vincent-St. Mary has employed the services of Great Lakes Biomedical, an on-site drug and alcohol testing company, to administer, collect, process, and analyze test samples. Great Lakes Biomedical has a streamline process that tests students quickly and accurately and remains completely confidential. On dates determined by the school administration, Great Lakes Biomedical will utilize a random number generator to select students for testing. Testing dates will remain unannounced and the frequency and percentage of students tested each time will be determined by the school administration. All students will be tested at some point during the school year and some students may be tested more than once per school year. The company will utilize urine testing to determine use of drugs and alcohol. Refusal to submit to a test or avoiding a test will be treated as a positive result.

Self-referrals

A self-referral occurs when a student asks a counselor, administrator, or any other school personnel for help and an assessment prior to any known violations of this policy. A self-referral may only happen prior to a student being notified that he/she must submit to a random test. A student may utilize a self-referral only once in four years. A self-referral is treated as a first positive test result.

Collection Process and Test Analysis

On the testing date, the student will be notified to report to the collection site. A specimen from the student will be obtained according to the standard collection process for each test. The collection process is subject to change because of the procedural requirements by the testing agency. St. Vincent-St. Mary High School reserves the right to change the collection process at any time to coincide with the testing guidelines set forth by the testing agency or a change in school administrative policy – parents will be notified.

When using rapid screen, all non-negative screens will be sent out with a chain of custody to a certified laboratory for confirmation. A Certified Medical Review Officer employed by Great Lakes Biomedical will verify the positive test.

Communication of Test Results

Test results will NOT be shared with the Dean of Student's office, the Principal, or law enforcement. The St. Vincent-St. Mary Director of Health and Wellness will send an email home to parents/guardians of each student tested indicating that the student was asked to submit a random test on that testing date. For those students whose test results are negative for drugs and alcohol, Great Lakes Biomedical will share a 'list of negatives' with this liaison. For those students whose results are positive for drugs or alcohol, Great Lakes Biomedical laboratories will share the information with the parents/guardians of such students per the test analysis protocol and the Director of Health and Wellness. This school official will send an email home to the parents/guardians of such students within one day of receiving the information, will inform the student's guidance counselor, and the following provisions will go into effect:

First Positive Test Result

Positive test results are cumulative in nature and consequences related to such results accrue throughout a student's tenure at St. Vincent-St. Mary (i.e results do not re-set with each calendar year). Students whose test results yield a first positive for some drug and/or alcohol use will do the following:

1. The student's guidance counselor will set up a confidential meeting with the student and parents. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the information from the analysis of the test and develop a support plan. As this is a Health and Wellness Program there will be no disciplinary consequences or any consequences affecting participation in co-curricular activities.
2. Students will be required to complete an online drug and alcohol prevention class offered through 3rd Millennium Classroom. Cost for this class will be covered by St. Vincent-St. Mary.
3. Students will have a follow up meeting with the guidance counselor to discuss their progress in the support plan.
4. The student is required to take a follow up drug test within 30 days at the expense of the parents (\$17). If the re-test results are negative, the student will be placed back in the random pool.

Second Positive Test Result

If after the first positive, the test results are again positive for drug or alcohol use, it will be considered a second positive.

1. Upon notification of the second positive, the student's guidance counselor will set a confidential meeting with the student and parents. The student will be required to complete a chemical dependency screen and complete any recommendations according to that screen. Failure to follow the guidelines of the chemical dependency screen may jeopardize a student's continued enrollment at St. Vincent-St. Mary.
2. The student will be placed on a behavioral contract with the Dean of Students.

3. A Second Positive will be reported to the Athletic Director and/or head coach/moderator as a second offense of the Wellness Policy regarding co-curricular suspensions. The student will be ineligible for public representation, outside competition and participation in all co-curricular activities for 25% of the current season. (If the reinstated student wishes to participate in a co-curricular activity after its tryout period, the administration and the coaching/moderating staff will determine whether the student will be permitted to undergo a tryout period.)
4. The student is required to take a follow up drug test within 30 days at the expense of the parents (\$17). If the re-test results are negative, the student will be placed back in the random pool.

Third Positive Test Result

If, after the second positive, the test results are again positive for drug or alcohol use, it will be considered a third positive.

1. A third positive may lead to dismissal from St. Vincent-St. Mary.

Drug and Alcohol Policy – Part 2: The Disciplinary Program

In all areas of student discipline, it is incumbent on the administration of St. Vincent-St. Mary, as a Marianist school, to educate the whole person; to lead and to serve, enlightening the mind, developing the body, touching the heart, and inspiring the soul. In many matters of discipline, detention or occasional probation periods are necessary. The use of drugs and/or alcohol at school or at school events is a significantly more complicated disciplinary issue. In the cases of drugs and alcohol, both activities are illegal and may require the school to involve law enforcement personnel. Student off-campus drug and/or alcohol use is also illegal, unhealthy and may be harmful to the reputation of the school.

Definitions/Understanding

1. Drug shall be defined as any illicit or illegal drug, prescription drug for which a student's use does not have proper physician authorization, alcohol, or drug paraphernalia.
2. Tobacco violation is defined as use or possession of tobacco, nicotine, electronic cigarettes, or related materials in any form.
3. Use shall be defined as consumption or possession. Possession shall mean on the person, or on the property owned and/or used by the person. Property shall include a building, vehicle, locker or other gathering area.
4. Confiscation is defined as the seizure or sequestration of items related to drug/alcohol or tobacco usage by students. Any such items confiscated by the school during investigatory procedures will not be returned to the students or their families.
5. Reasonable Suspicion Testing is when school officials utilize their right to have a student tested for use of alcohol or drugs, when they believe there is a "reasonable suspicion" that the student possesses, is using, has recently used, or is under the influence of illegal substances.

6. Self-Admission is defined as an admission by a student to the school administration that he/she has recently used or possessed drugs/alcohol. A student may self-admit at any point prior to the time that he/she is given notice to complete a reasonable suspicion drug test (i.e. when he/she is asked questions directly relating to an incident/event at which drugs/alcohol may have been present to or in use by students). A student may not self-admit after he/she is asked to complete a test based on reasonable suspicion of alcohol/drug use relating to an incident/event at which drugs/alcohol may have been present to or in use by students.

Class I Violations – Policy on Possession of Drugs/Drug Paraphernalia with the Intent to Sell/Distribute

Any student who possesses or controls illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia and sells or distributes, or intends to sell or distribute such materials to other members of the St. Vincent-St. Mary community may not remain as an active member of the community, and as such, will be immediately dismissed from St. Vincent-St. Mary High School.

Class II Violations - Policy on Hosting or Providing Alcohol or Illegal Substance Related Parties and Policy on Possession or Use of Alcohol or Other Illegal Drugs at School or any School-Sponsored Functions

Any student who hosts or facilitates a party or gathering at which alcohol or illegal drugs are illegally used by minors, or provides or procures a facility for any such party or gathering, has seriously violated the behavior expected by members of the St. Vincent-St. Mary community. Further, St. Vincent-St. Mary insists on protecting the physical, academic and social space of the school community from illegal use of alcohol or other drugs. Any student who illegally possesses and/or uses alcohol or other drugs prior to attending or while attending school or any school-sponsored function has harmed/endangered the school community

Consequences for such infractions will be assigned for each student at the discretion of the school's administration after considering the circumstances. Such circumstances shall include any one or more of the following factors as the situation indicates:

- The nature and extent of the transportation and safety risks to those attending the party or gathering and to others (or risks to those attending school or the school function)
- The size of the party or gathering
- The nature and extent of the student's involvement in any planning, publicity and/or fees charged in connection with the party or gathering, use, or distribution of the alcohol or drugs
- The amount of alcohol or drugs involved
- The nature of the conduct of the attendees at the party or gathering (or of the student at school or the school related function)
- The student's prior disciplinary and academic history

- The academic timing of the infraction
- Any other factors that the school's administration considers relevant under the circumstances

If a St. Vincent-St. Mary student is suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at any school function, on or off campus, a school representative will detain him/her.

When school authorities have reasonable suspicion to believe or suspect a student is or has recently been under the influence of alcohol or drugs at school, or at a school related or school sponsored activity or event, based on the student's observed conduct, demeanor, appearance, or speech, or other corroborated information, the student may be requested to submit to a test using an approved sensor. If the test discloses the student to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs to any degree or extent, then the student will remain with the school authority until a parent/guardian arrives and takes custody. If a parent/guardian is unavailable, another adult member of the student's family may represent the parent/guardian. If no adult can be reached, the school may turn the student over to law enforcement authorities.

The school reserves the right to conduct random or selective searches for alcohol or other substances at school or any school related function, whether on or off campus, by school personnel and/or the Akron Police Department.

In addition, any test results may be used for disciplinary purposes (see Disciplinary Consequences section). Refusal to submit to any drug or alcohol test within the specified period of time will be treated as a positive result and may be grounds for dismissal from school.

Class III Violations - Policy on Possession or Use of Alcohol or Other Illegal Drugs outside of School Functions

As St. Vincent-St. Mary students are called to live out the school's mission and abide by its policies away from school, the same rules regarding alcohol and drug possession and use apply to situations that occur away from school or school events. When school authorities have reasonable suspicion to believe or suspect a student has recently been under the influence of alcohol or drugs away from school, the student may be required to submit to test using an approved sensor. If the test discloses the student to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs to any degree or extent, the student will be subject to disciplinary consequences outlined under Class III Violations.

Class IV Violations – Policy on Possession or Use of Tobacco in Any Form at School or Any School-Sponsored Function

Any student who possesses or uses tobacco in any form while attending school or any school-sponsored function has endangered the school community. As such, the student is subject to disciplinary consequences ranging from in-school suspension to dismissal from school.