

Charlotte Catholic High School

A Catholic High School of the
Diocese of Charlotte, North Carolina

Policy on Drugs and Alcohol

Section 1

Statement of Purpose

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that our faith community “has a duty to honor the family, to assist it, and to ensure...the protection of security and health, especially with respect to dangers like drugs, pornography, alcoholism...” It further states that the usage of drugs “inflicts very grave damage on human health and life. Their use, except on strictly therapeutic grounds, is a grave offense. Clandestine production of and trafficking in drugs are scandalous practices. They constitute direct co-operation in evil, since they encourage people to practices gravely contrary to the moral law.”

The Church community accepts its duty to honor the family and to assist it. This same community wishes to ensure the protection of security and health in all matters, but in a special way with regard to dangers posed by drug and alcohol usage. Accordingly, CCHS has adopted the Policy on Drug and Alcohol set forth below.

The Catholic Diocese of Charlotte is committed to providing an optimal educational environment for all students attending the schools of the Diocese. In order to assist parents, the primary educators of their children, and to work toward the establishment of a safe and drug-free environment, screening of all students for drug usage is to be adopted at Charlotte Catholic High School (CCHS) beginning the 2004-2005 academic year.

The Policy is intended to be both pastoral and punitive. It is a Policy directed at student conduct. As such, its primary aim is that of deterring young adults enrolled at CCHS from beginning or continuing drug and alcohol use and to steer them into appropriate education and treatment, whenever appropriate.

CCHS, through the Policy, seeks to empower its students with knowledge and skills so as to assist them in making responsible decisions about their behaviors. The high school, however, cannot be substituted for the powerful influences that rightfully reside in the family. The single most effective mechanism for the prevention and deterrence of drug and alcohol usage among students is a strong, moral and loving family unit. No family, therefore, should view the Policy as a means by which it may abdicate its responsibility. Rather, it should be viewed as a tool to assist the family in the process of preventing and deterring drug and alcohol usage among CCHS students.

CCHS believes that the most effective means for implementing the Policy is through open communication among students, parents, and the school community. Such a collaboration effort will serve to enhance all aspects of school life as the high school continues its task of assisting students to become healthy, moral and protective citizens and church community members.

Attendance at CCHS is not a right, but a privilege. With the privilege come certain responsibilities. The high school holds students, parents and guardians to a high code of behavior in areas that affect the well being and safety of all students. Accordingly, all students and parents are required to consent to participation in all aspects of the Policy as a condition of the student's enrollment at the high school.

A refusal to submit to or attempt to falsify a test required by the Policy will be deemed as a positive test and substance use violation with the accompanying consequences as set forth in the Policy.

Section II

Policy Components

As noted above, it is the intent of the Policy to assist students and their parents or guardians when confronted with the pain and confusion that unlawful substance use brings to young lives. With this in mind, the Policy is centered on three basic components: Education, Intervention and Responsibility. Each of these is addressed below.

Section III

Prohibitions

The use, possession, sale or purchase of any unlawful controlled substance in violation of federal law and/or the laws of the State of North Carolina, including but not limited to the following drugs, without proper written medical authorization previously provided to the administration, is prohibited at CCHS or at any CCHS sponsored event, except as provided for herein: Alcohol, Cocaine, Opiates, Phencyclidine (PCP), Marijuana, Steroids, Barbiturates, and Methamphetamines.

The Policy is also violated when a student is present on CCHS facilities or at any CCHS sponsored event while having in his body any amount of a prohibited substance listed herein.

The Policy is also violated upon a student's conviction for a violation of any North Carolina or federal law governing controlled substances or alcohol.

It is not a violation of the Policy to receive the Blood of Christ during Mass.

Section IV

Education

In keeping with the pastoral element of the Policy, CCHS shall offer and each student shall take educational instruction regarding the physical and psychological effects of alcohol and drugs. Such instruction shall consist of class periods and/or other educational presentations throughout the school year at such times and in such manners as the Administration shall determine. The instruction shall be both scientific and moral. Additionally, the effects of alcohol and drugs shall become part of the CCHS course offerings. Further, the moral implications of a student's decision to use alcohol and/or drugs shall become part of the high school's Life of Jesus Christ (Morality) course offerings. Thus, by the conclusion of a

student's four-year career he will have been exposed to a breadth and depth of alcohol and drug education that CCHS believes is unparalleled in this community.

Additionally, such education shall be available to all CCHS administration and faculty members. Finally, CCHS administration and faculty shall receive training in the aspects of recognition and intervention when observing or confronted with a violation of the Policy.

Section V Intervention

A. Alcohol

As noted above, any use, possession, or purchase of an alcohol substance while on CCHS facilities or at a CCHS event, is a violation of the Policy. It is also a violation of the Policy for a student to have in his body any amount of alcohol while on CCHS facilities or at a CCHS event.

1. Random Testing

Screening for alcohol shall be conducted at CCHS utilizing a procedure whereby on random dates throughout the school year selected by the Dean of Students and/or Assistant Principal with the approval of the Principal, a number of students as determined by the Principal shall be selected randomly by the student school ID number from a pool consisting of the total high school body population. The testing shall be conducted by collecting two consecutive breath samples for analysis utilizing an Intoxilyzer device in accordance with the manufacturer's protocol for said device. Consequently, it is possible that a student may be tested more than once a year. Conversely, it is also possible that a student may not be tested at all.

2. Reasonable Basis Testing

When it reasonably appears to the Dean of Students and/or Assistant Principal that a student is present on CCHS facilities or at a CCHS sponsored event while alcohol remains in his body he shall escort the student to the administration offices whereupon the student shall provide two consecutive breath samples for analysis by an Intoxilyzer device in accordance with the manufacturer's protocol for said device. In making his determination that a student has alcohol in his body the Dean of Students and/or Assistant Principal may consider the student's conduct, his physical appearance (including eye abnormalities such as whether they are red, glassy or blood-shot) odor, physical coordination or any other factor that would reasonably lead to the Dean of Students and/or Assistant Principal in making such a determination. The Dean of Students and/or Assistant Principal shall document in writing the basis for his determination and shall place such documentation in the student's confidential file. The student shall consent to being escorted to the administrative offices and to providing the breath samples required by the Policy. The lower of the two readings shall be considered the amount of blood-alcohol concentration. The Intoxilyzer printout reflecting the blood-alcohol content also shall become part of the student's confidential file.

B. Controlled Substances

1. Random Testing

Testing for drug usage shall be conducted randomly at CCHS utilizing a procedure whereby on a date selected by the Dean of Students and/or Assistant Principal with the approval of the Principal, a number of students as determined by the Principal shall be selected randomly by school ID number from a pool consisting of the total high school student body population. Consequently, it is possible that a student may be tested more than once a year. Conversely, it is also possible that a student may not be tested at all.

The high school shall employ the services of an independent organization qualified to conduct such testing (the "Testing Organization") for the purpose of coordinating, collecting and analyzing suitable urine/hair samples. The testing shall be conducted at CCHS.

2. Reasonable Basis Testing

When it reasonably appears to the Dean of Students and/or Assistant Principal, that a student is present on CCHS facilities or at a CCHS sponsored event while an unlawful controlled substance remains in his body he shall escort the student to the administrative offices whereupon the Dean of Students and/or Assistant Principal shall consult with the Principal concerning his basis for determining that the student is in violation of the Policy. After such consultation, the Principal shall determine whether to require the student to provide a urine sample for later testing by the Testing Organization. In making his determination that a student has an unlawful controlled substance in his body the Dean of Students and/or Assistant Principal may consider the student's conduct, his physical appearance (including eye abnormalities such as whether they are dilated, glassy or blood-shot), physical coordination or any other factor that would reasonably lead the Dean of Students and/or Assistant Principal in making such a determination. The Dean of Students and/or Assistant Principal shall document in writing the basis for his determination and shall place such documentation in the student's confidential file. The student shall consent to being escorted to the administrative offices and to providing the urine sample in the event that the Principal determines that one is required. The Dean of Students and/or Assistant Principal shall properly label and date any sample that has been obtained.

Section VI

Notification of Test Results

1. Alcohol

The Dean of Students and/or Assistant Principal shall, upon a positive result, immediately call and require a parent/guardian to pick up the student. A follow up meeting will be required with a parent/guardian. No notification will be provided of a negative result. The Intoxilyzer printout of all test results shall be maintained in the student's confidential file for the period prescribed herein.

2. Controlled Substances

The Testing Organization shall notify the Dean of Students and/or Assistant Principal of each test result who shall then notify the Principal. The Dean of Students and/or Assistant Principal shall, upon receipt of a positive test, notify a parent/guardian for a required meeting with the student. A parent/guardian will be notified by mail of a negative test result.

Section VII Responsibility

1. First Violation

Upon a first violation of the Policy the student and his parents or guardians shall be required to meet with the Dean of Students and/or Assistant Principal to determine an appropriate course of action. Such a student will be to receive an immediate assessment by a substance abuse professional approved by the Dean of Students and/or Assistant Principal. The student and his family or guardian must agree to follow the plan of treatment established by the substance abuse professional. The substance abuse professional shall advise the Dean of Students the plan of treatment. The assessment of any student engaged in extra-curricular activities must consider whether the student will be allowed to continue to engage in extra-curricular activities and what, if any, limitations will be placed upon such activities.

The substance abuse professional shall be required to advise the school if the student fails to follow the plan of treatment, in which case the student will be expelled or asked to withdraw. The student shall submit to follow-up testing which shall consist of 3 mandatory tests. If a student shows continued use during this period, he/she will be expelled or asked to withdraw.

All costs associated with assessment, treatment and follow-up testing shall be borne by the student or student's parent or guardian.

2. Second Violation

Upon a second violation of the Policy a student shall submit...
to additional needs assessment and shall abide by the recommendations of that assessment. Additionally, the student shall submit to mandatory testing for a period of one calendar year from the date of the second positive test, or in the event that the student has less than one calendar year before he graduates, for the duration of his career at CCHS. Further, the student may be subject to limited participation or attendance in or at extra-curricular activities. In the event that the student successfully completes the prescribed drug treatment program and has no further evidence of use during the suspension period, he shall be reinstated to full eligibility.

All costs associated with assessment, treatment and follow-up testing shall be borne by the student or the student's parent or guardian.

3. Third Violation

Upon a third violation of the Policy, a student shall be expelled or asked to withdraw.

Section VIII Confidentiality

CCHS will make reasonable attempts to keep information respecting drug tests and any resulting disciplinary actions of the high school confidential. However, the high school can not maintain as confidential information that must be shared (for example, information given to a coach that the student must limit participation in an extra-curricular activity) or as required by law or information that is shared with others by the student or the parent or guardian.

Section IX Retention of Records

No documentation pertaining to each student's screening for drug usage will be made part of the students permanent record. All documentation generated in connection with the Policy shall be kept in a separate confidential file with the Dean of Students and/or Assistant Principal and will be destroyed promptly upon the student's graduation from CCHS.

Section X Annual Notification

CCHS shall, following the first year of testing, submit a report to the Office of the Catholic Schools by June 15th of each year. This report shall include data on the number of students tested (but not their names), the dates of the tests and the number of positive and the number of negative results obtained. A short descriptive analysis of the program for that year shall also be included.

Section XI

A refusal to submit any drug test or attempt to falsify a drug test required by the policy will be deemed as a positive test and will lead to an in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension or expulsion. Any student selling alcohol and/or drugs on campus or at school-sponsored events off-campus will be forced to withdraw or will be expelled. Any student buying alcohol and/or drugs on campus or at school-sponsored events off-campus may be suspended, forced to withdraw or may be expelled.

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