

SAINT PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL initiated its mandatory drug testing policy in September, 2004. Statistics from a study conducted by the University of Michigan indicated that the proportion of young people using any illicit drug is up slightly over the past two years. The UM report found that 20-30% of 18 year olds experiment with illegal drugs. At Saint Patrick High School, our goal is to be proactive and address this issue now rather than the alternative later. We are committed to giving your son a **DRUG FREE WAY TO LEARN.**



Our concern is for our students

who may face challenges that become obstacles in reaching their goals in life

who deserve a learning environment where the culture of illegal drugs is not present or tolerated

who struggle to belong and sometimes choose against the advice of those who love them

WHY HAIR TESTING?

Hair analysis has consistently proven to be more effective than urinalysis and other methods in correctly identifying drug use. Psychemedics Corporation has the only FDA approved and patented procedure of hair analysis. Hair testing is far less invasive than other methods, provides superior detection and is the most cost effective and efficient method of drug testing.

Saint Patrick High School has contracted with Psychemedics Corporation because it is the nation's leading drug testing company using hair sampling and is the only process that is FDA approved. Laboratory procedures are designed to detect the presence of illegal drugs in the cortex of the hair and to eliminate the possibility of false positives, a positive result from outside sources. Psychemedics' test detects illegal drugs used in the past 90 days and can provide information of the type, quantity, and historic pattern of individual drug use.

Psychemedics Corporation provides testing for over 2,600 organizations and 175 schools. Clients include:

- Chicago Police and Fire Department
- Christian Brothers High School, Tennessee
- DeLaSalle High School, Louisiana
- St. Viator High School, Arlington Heights
- Joliet Catholic High School, Joliet
- Marian Catholic High School, Chicago
- Marist High School, Chicago

Our concern is for our parents

who share the same values, hopes and dreams as Saint Patrick High School does for the young men entrusted to our care

who are looking to us for professional support and referral resource information to help with a drug issue

HOW IT WORKS

All students are randomly selected and tested for drug use at least once a year. Once a student is selected and tested, his name is returned to the collective pool for further selections. Typically, after the entire student body has been tested, 25% of the student body will be tested a second time. The test involves using a small sample of hair, 1.5 inches long and about the width of the tip of a shoelace.

If a student tests positive, the family is contacted by the Dean of Students to schedule a confidential conference that addresses the following:

Explanation of test results including type of drug, level of use, and window of time of use

Counseling Options to assess level of intervention if counseling is appropriate

Retesting at the student's expense, required 100 days after a positive test result

Consequences of a second positive test, anytime within a typical 4-year high school career

Decisions in all matters are reserved to the review of the Administrative Team.

QUESTIONS

Do the screening results appear anywhere on a student's permanent record?

No. The Family Educational Right to Privacy Act (the Buckley Amendment) restricts the information on transcripts to only include academic grades and academic test results.

Does Saint Patrick High School have a drug problem?

No. The school is drug free.

Will my son be expelled from Saint Patrick High School if there is a positive test result?

With a first positive test result, families will be given the opportunity to work with the school in a variety of counseling options. If a student tests positive a second time, he may be subject to dismissal.

DRUG TESTING RESULTS

Testing

- Began testing students in September, 2004
- 15-20 students tested daily by random selection via a computer program called "THE HAT"
- 12th year of testing completed in May, 2015

12 Year Results

- 12,300 students tested
- Less than 2% tested positive
- Overall, 98% of students tested showed no drug use

Who is aware of the test results?

This program is successful largely in part to the confidentiality factor. The test results are returned only to the Dean, who will then share the name of the student with the principal. The family decides on counseling options. The family would then decide who at Saint Patrick would be the contact person with the outside agency; parents often consider their son's guidance counselor.

What drugs does the test screen?

The test screens for marijuana, cocaine, opiates, methamphetamines, PCP, and Ecstasy. Additionally, the test will identify a range of use (light, moderate, or heavy) and it can also provide a window of time of the use. The test does not screen for steroids or alcohol.

RESIDUAL BENEFITS

- Young people who sell drugs no longer hang around our school
- Students are remarkably supportive
- Number of excessive tardies has decreased significantly
- Attendance improved

Drugs **STOP** you from where you want to go in life.

DON'T START
If you start, **STOP**
If you can't stop, **GET HELP**



DRUG TESTING TASK FORCE

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President

Jon P. Baffico

Principal

James McKay

Chief, Narcotics Prosecution Bureau
Cook County States Attorney

Hon. James P. O'Malley

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Daniel Geraghty

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Daniel Kusinski

Guidance Counselor

Joseph Smailis

Guidance Counselor

Brian Glorioso

Athletic Director

Patrick Duggan

Website Director

Daniel Galante

Admissions Director

Michael Bailey

Admissions Director

James Weiler

Psychomedics Consultant

Ken Cozzi

Therapist

OUR SUPPORT CONTINUES...

Open Door Policy

Saint Patrick High School cares about the challenges that our students face in society. The Open Door Policy gives our students the opportunity to **speak confidentially** to a member of the faculty and/or administration if they have concerns about illegal activities within the community.

Students are encouraged to **make a difference** by seeking help for anyone who is the victim of physical or verbal abuse, or involved with drugs, gangs, alcohol or weapons' possession.

Saint Patrick High School cares about **keeping our students drug free**.

Alcohol and Drug Awareness Week

This week-long program includes presentations that address the physical and legal ramifications associated with substance abuse for both a student and his parent or guardian. Information is also available on how someone can seek professional help.

Partnering with Parents

Keeping our students drug free.



Initiated September, 2004
Updated October 2015

Saint Patrick High School Counseling Programs and Services

Alcohol Awareness Week in conjunction with the Secretary of State and Illinois State Police.

Substance abuse education in physical education, health, biology, and religion classes.

Student Services referral opportunities:

Peer Counseling
Retreat Program



In February, 2005, the **Partnering with Parents** drug testing initiative was recognized by President George W. Bush and presented to Congress in the document, The National Drug Control Strategy.

For more information:

Psychomedics Corporation - www.psychomedics.com
Drug Free Teenagers - www.drugfreeteenagers.com
American Council for Drug Education - www.acde.org



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