

CJ Drug Awareness and Universal Testing Program

Background

As a leader for excellence in Catholic education, Chaminade Julienne continues to find ways to strengthen the Catholic educational experience for its students. In recent years, research and national and local news headlines have illustrated the growing problem of substance abuse in our society. In the fall of 2016, a fact-finding committee comprised of teachers and counselors from our City Connects* implementation team, health professionals, and administrators took a fresh look at how the issue of substance abuse is affecting CJ students. After reviewing research, data and speaking to other schools that have successfully adopted a drug awareness and testing program, the committee recommended the adoption of student health and wellness initiative that includes new efforts to educate students on the dangers of the use and abuse of alcohol and illegal substance, provide tools that may aid students facing temptation, and, when necessary, identify resources necessary for students who have made unhealthy choices. This more proactive approach will include universal drug testing for every student starting with the 2018-2019 school year.

This program was implemented not because we perceive that we have a widespread issue with substance abuse at CJ, but because we have come to understand more fully that CJ students, just like adolescents everywhere, are faced with difficult decisions about whether not to use and abuse drugs and alcohol. We feel called to develop and implement strategies that support them in becoming the young adults that God and their families want them to be.

*City Connects is a student support program that helps students remove barriers that impede him or her from performing at the fullest potential as a student.

Goals

- Educate students for a lifelong understanding of the dangers of substance use,
- Empower students with tools that can assist them in moments of temptation,
- Identify students who are struggling with abuse in their lives, and direct them to supportive resources in regaining healthy control of their lives,
- Provide students with four years of experience of establishing and reinforcing patterns of making health-minded decisions -- especially at a time when research shows that crucial brain development is still taking place through the age of 25,
- Cultivate students to become peer leaders, who, by example, are supportive to others in making health-minded decisions,
- Provide intervention strategies that address illegal substance use and abuse before what could become a disciplinary issue at school, and
- Provide the expectation that CJ students will be drug-free, preparing them for the zero tolerance expectations they will find in workplaces, college athletics, and the military.

Process

Each school year, all students will have a hair sample taken and tested for the presence of drugs. The test includes the following types of illegal substances: cocaine, marijuana, opiates (including heroin, codeine, morphine, oxycodone, hydrocodone and hydromorphone), methamphetamine, Ecstasy (MDMA), Eve (MDEA) and phencyclidine (PCP). The hair drug test can detect past drug use up to 90 days. Every student will have an initial drug test completed within the first quarter. Additional random tests will occur throughout the second, third, and fourth quarters. The drug testing company will use a randomizer to select the students for random additional testing. CJ has partnered with a professional drug testing company to collect hair samples using strict chain of custody procedures that maintain confidentiality and a professional testing lab to conduct all hair screening. For the 2018-2019 school year, parents may choose to include a screening for alcohol for an added cost.

On the day a student is tested in school, his or her parents/guardians will be notified via email.

- Negative (no drugs detected) test results will be communicated to parents/guardians via email typically within two weeks after the sample is collected.
- Non-negative (presence of drugs detected) test results will be communicated to parents/guardians via phone call from the principal. If a non-negative test result is due to a prescription medication the student is taking under a doctor's care, parents/guardians will work with the principal to verify this result.
- Positive (confirmed drug abuse detected) test results occur if the non-negative test result is not due to a prescribed medication. The principal will work with students and their families as outlined in the TRUST (Together, Responsible for Universal Student Testing) plan found below. The first

positive test result will initiate a confidential support meeting in order to create a plan for improvement with no disciplinary measures recorded. Costs and responsibilities to enact measures in the TRUST plan – such as medical or mental health appointments, online educational programs, and retests – are the responsibility of the parents/guardians. A second positive test over a student's career at CJ will result in a major disciplinary infraction, and the student will be asked to withdraw from school with the option of appealing the decision through the Right to Appeal process outlined in the School Discipline section of the handbook. Students receiving a third positive test over his or her career at CJ will be withdrawn.

If a student refuses to cooperate with the testing process, CJ will consider that as a positive test result according to the TRUST plan.

Students are strongly encouraged to come forward about prior drug or alcohol use to enlist the help and support of the school community. A goal of this program is helping students recover to healthy lives. Self-referrals will initiate the same steps listed in the TRUST plan as a first positive result, including the completion of a drug test to determine baseline levels of dependency. As long as the steps of the support plan are followed, students may avoid disciplinary actions.

The most up to date information, including frequently asked questions, can be located on the cjeagles.org website.

