

Policy for Random Urine Drug Testing of Cathedral Preparatory School and Villa Maria Academy Students

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Should I be concerned about a “false positive” testing result?**

The urinalysis method employed will only identify chemicals that are actually in the body. For example, a positive result for amphetamines will only come from amphetamines actually being present in the body. The test will not identify a substance if it is not in the body.

2. **What if there is a reasonable explanation for a substance being in the body?**

The student is given a form to disclose all possible sources of illicit substances at the time they give the specimen. All possibilities should be listed: prescription medications, over-the-counter medicines recently taken (e.g. sleep aids), foods (e.g. poppy seeds), secondary contamination sources (e.g. at a concert with users in the vicinity), etc. All positive results go to a licensed physician (Medical Review Officer) who is certified by the Medical Review Officer Certification Council or the American Association of Medical Review Officers to interpret and evaluate drug test results. The Medical Review Officer for Sport Safe Testing, Inc. has had fourteen years of experience with numerous clients around the United States.

If the student disclosure provides a sufficient reason for the positive result, the test will be ruled negative with no further action. If not, the Medical Review Officer will contact the student's parent/ guardian to see if *any reasonable explanation* can be given for the presence of the substance in the body. If the parent provides a sufficient reason for the positive result, the test will be ruled negative.

The Assistant Principal will only be notified of positive results that do not have a reasonable explanation from either the parent or the student. By this time, the parent and student are already well aware of the issue and have begun dialogue.

3. **What if no reasonable explanation can be found?**

The parent can have the second half of the original urine specimen sent to a lab of their choice to be tested as outlined in the policy if they wish to dispute the findings. Again, by this time the parent and student are already well aware of the issue and have begun dialogue. The Assistant Principal will be contacted by the Medical Review Officer and made aware of the entire situation. The Assistant Principal will then call the parent to notify them of the necessity of an assessment by a licensed drug and alcohol counselor.

4. What is a drug and alcohol assessment?

The parents can have a student meet with an outside licensed drug and alcohol counselor of their choice or the contracted licensed drug and alcohol counselor through the school's Student Assistance Program. The counselor will meet with the student to conduct a detailed interview and then make a professional recommendation as to the scope of the problem and the assistance program they recommend. For example, if someone is determined to be a one-time marijuana user they could be recommended a low-level outpatient program consisting of one counseling session per week on the dangers and effects of drug use for six weeks. If someone is determined to be a chronic marijuana abuser they could be recommended an intensive outpatient program consisting of several individual and group counseling sessions per week in addition to weekly urine tests for eight weeks.

5. Does my student have to comply with the counselor's recommendations?

The counselor is licensed, trained, and experienced in working with drug and alcohol issues and thus qualified to give a professional recommendation. Cathedral Prep and Villa Maria insist the student comply with the recommendation as given. Nothing more or less will be required by the school.

6. Are any punishments given in addition the counseling program requirement?

There are limited punitive consequences for a first positive result. The only punitive consequence for a first positive is a two week suspension from all extra-curricular activities. Should a student have a first positive result, he will be required to be tested in every subsequent test for the remainder of that school year. It should be noted however, that breaches of the Handbook Drug and Alcohol Policy (i.e. possession of illicit substances/ paraphernalia and/ or demonstrated effect of the same) will still be dealt with according the Handbook Drug and Alcohol Policy.

7. Why would a student be expelled for a second positive result?

A second positive result in the same school year or two consecutive calendar years after a drug and alcohol program has been completed demonstrates an extreme unwillingness to comply with the goal of Cathedral Prep and Villa Maria to provide a safe and positive environment for all its students. A second positive result while the student is enrolled in a drug and alcohol program (outside of the counselor's acceptability requirements for those who are addicted) demonstrates the same unwillingness to comply with the school's goals. A second refusal to give or adulteration of a sample demonstrates the same unwillingness. Cathedral Prep and Villa Maria must ensure as best they can that all students are given a safe and positive environment.

8. How will my child's confidentiality be protected?

Specimens/ forms are coded with a student ID number (issued by the company) once they are given. The only forms that will have the student's name on them are the ones given to the student at the time of collection, the Medical Review Officer, and the Assistant Principal in the event of a positive result after parents have been contacted. In the event of a positive result, the Assistant Principal will make all contacts with parents and counselor and apprise only the Principal and President of the situation. No part of the situation will go on the student's electronic or permanent record and thus will not be disclosed to any college, potential employer, etc. The Assistant Principal will keep only paper records on file for the duration of the student's time at Cathedral Prep or Villa Maria, after which the records will be destroyed.

9. Are we testing for all the illicit substances that are listed in the policy?

At this time it is cost prohibitive to include MDMA (Ecstasy), Anabolic Steroids, and Nicotine on the random testing panel.