

SMOKING, DRINKING, DRUGS

Philosophy

Rooted in a concern for the welfare of students and families, the Marian Catholic High School Substance Abuse Policy supports our mission of seeking truth, developing personal responsibility, and encouraging the full use of the gifts God gives to each developing young person.

Marian Catholic High School students are expected to avoid smoking, vaping, consuming alcohol and using drugs. The use of tobacco, marijuana, vaping materials alcohol, and other illegal substances “short circuits” the growth of young people, places both students and parents in legal jeopardy, harms student health, disrupts the educational process, endangers others, and destroys the reputation of the Marian Catholic High School community. Marian Catholic continually strives to use educational means to encourage healthy choices. In addition, we utilize random breathalyzer testing at social activities sponsored at the school. In the case where school officials have reason to believe a student is under the influence of alcohol/drugs, breathalyzer/drug testing is mandated.

State policy regarding administration of Medical Cannabis: Students are not permitted to use or possess medical cannabis infused products in school except in accordance with the law and school policy. School policy provides that if a parent/guardian of a secondary student demonstrates his/her son or daughter is a “registered qualifying patient,” has an individual who is a “registered designated caregiver,” and both of whom hold medical cannabis registry identification cards, then the parent/guardian or registered designated caregiver must be permitted to administer a medical cannabis infused product to the student (non-smoking/non-vaping form) at school. The school may not deny a student attendance solely because the student requires administration of medical cannabis during school hours. A parent or guardian or other individual may not administer a medical cannabis product in a manner that, in the opinion of the school, would create disruption to the school’s educational environment or would cause exposure of the product to other students.

To be successful, this Policy requires the support of the entire Marian Catholic community. Students, parents, faculty, staff and administration need to share in a spirit of cooperation, honesty and responsibility.

Drug Screening Program

Marian Catholic, in collaboration with our families, strives to ensure a safe, optimum learning environment for all of our students. Marian Catholic believes that the best way to accomplish this is to support our students in the fight against illicit drug use. In addition to regular education, random drug screening has a chilling effect on illicit drug use. Marian partners with a drug testing laboratory service to perform a hair analysis testing panel to screen for illicit substances.

Students are randomly chosen for the hair screening test, which is administered by a trained hair professional. A sample of hair about the width of a pencil eraser is needed for the test to be properly processed, and will be taken from the head of the student if at all possible. Care will be taken to not create any noticeable change or disruption to a student's hair style. If there is a lack of hair available for testing on the selected day, the student is obligated to be tested within 30 days by either growing their hair or removing a portion of any hair extensions. Only if absolutely necessary, and if a sufficient sample is available, hair may be taken from the legs or armpits. All students are tested during first semester, and a random sample (25%) of students will be tested again during second semester.

School administration reserves the right to require a student to be tested at any time if an administrator, faculty, or staff member reasonably believes that a student is under the influence of drugs or alcohol while at school or a school-sponsored event. Likewise, if it comes to the school's attention that a student has made social media posts displaying or referring to drug use or that a student has attended a party where known drug use occurred, the school may require that the student complete a drug test immediately. Refusal to submit to a required drug screening test will result in disciplinary consequences ranging up to suspension or withdrawal.

If a student tests positive for an illicit or prescribed medication for pain relief, both student and family are contacted by the school social worker. A positive test for a prescribed medication will need to be verified by sending in a copy of the prescription printout from the pharmacy providing the name of the student and the name of the prescription. It will be held on file in case there is a need to verify for a second drug screen second semester. If the positive test reflects an illicit substance, both student and family will be contacted to discuss the explanation of the result and referrals for evaluation and/or counseling. A student who tests positive for an illicit substance will be required to complete an external intervention program. Participation in the program is at the expense of the family. Proof of enrollment in such a program is required before the student can return to school. Students may also be restricted from participating in extracurricular activities until the issue is resolved. A contract will be signed by the parent and student stating that another drug screen will be performed three months from the date of the first, as this provides enough time to see a reduction or absence of any drugs in the hair sample. The rate of reduction will be determined by the type and amount of substance detected in the initial test. The acceptable level of decline required in the retest will be communicated to the student and family at the time of initial intervention. If the acceptable level of decline is not met, the student may be asked to withdraw from school upon the results of the retest. If the student's test numbers spike upon a later test or if the student tests positive for any other illicit substance upon subsequent tests, they will be asked to withdraw from school.

All records are held confidential and are expunged upon graduation. If a student who has been dismissed from Marian because of illicit substance use wants reentry to Marian, the student (family) must provide documentation of completion of a certified substance abuse program. An interview with the Principal and school social worker will be granted only if adequate information is presented prior to the meeting, and criteria for readmission to the school has been met.

AT SCHOOL OR SCHOOL-SPONSORED EVENTS (HOME OR AWAY)

Smoking and Vaping

Smoking and vaping is strictly forbidden for students in the building, on school buses, at school-sponsored activities, or anywhere on campus. Students found guilty of a smoking violation or of carrying tobacco, smoking materials, (matches, pipes, lighters, etc.) vaping devices (e-cigarettes, vaping pens, MODS, AIO, etc.) are suspended.

Drugs and Alcohol

1. Any student who is found on school property or at a school-sponsored function (both home and away) in possession of alcohol, illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia or under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs, will be suspended and referred to the Marian Catholic Discipline Board with the possibility of expulsion. A police report may be filed.
2. Students who sell, distribute or in any way serve as the source of alcohol or any other illegal drug to others (with or without the intention of personal profit) on school property or at school-sponsored events (home or away) are automatically expelled.
3. Marian Catholic High School reserves the right to request school-approved testing for illegal substances, with or without cause.

OFF CAMPUS INCIDENTS

Parental Role:

- Parents and the community play the primary role in the safety of young people off campus.
- Parents are asked to be familiar with school policies and are encouraged to support the "Parent Connection" agreement.

PARENT CONNECTION AGREEMENT: WE WILL:

1. Act as positive role models.
2. Actively chaperone activities inside our homes and not allow alcohol, tobacco or any other drug to be consumed minors. If these substances are found in possession of minors at a party, we will take reasonable steps to stop it and we will contact students' parents.
3. Welcome phone calls from other parents regarding student events planned inside our homes.
4. Communicate with the appropriate adults to ensure that events outside our homes will be actively chaperoned and will not allow the use of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs by minors.
5. Insist that no tobacco, alcoholic beverages or other drugs be served to any minor.
6. Request that we be informed if our students are seen smoking, consuming alcohol or under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.
7. Support the behavior guidelines of Maria Catholic and local community curfews as appropriate.
8. Review and discuss this Parent Connection Agreement with our children.
9. Increase our own awareness and education of the substance abuse problem and explore strategies to address situations that stem from this problem.
10. Comply with the decisions of Marian Catholic High School regarding discipline matters.

School involvement and consequences for off-campus incidents:

- The use of alcohol or drugs by minors is illegal. If Marian Catholic High School receives information regarding the off-campus use or possession (as defined by law) of alcohol, illegal substances, or drug paraphernalia, the school will contact the parents and may require, at parental expense, a school-approved drug test and/or professional evaluation and/or participation in a school-approved substance or alcohol abuse education program.
- Participation in athletics and school activities has been defined by the courts as a privilege and not a right. Students who are found in violation of the policies outlined in this section of the handbook are subject to loss of 10% of participation in any extracurricular activity in which they are currently involved. Students may also be subject to additional consequences specific to their particular activity as outlined by the activity's contract/rules/by-laws and as determined by the discretion of the activity moderator.
- In all matters involving a police report, public scandal, or the hosting of a party where alcohol or drugs are provided to and/or consumed by minors, the Marian Catholic Discipline Board will be convened. **Discipline Board Note:** Marian Catholic has a zero-tolerance policy in regard to providing alcohol or drugs and for students hosting a party providing or allowing alcohol or drugs (automatic expulsion). Students who host a party where alcohol or drugs are present will be automatically expelled upon the convening of the Discipline Board. Hosting a party is defined as either physically hosting a gathering at a student home and/or organizing a gathering at another location. Students who provide alcohol or drugs to a party or arrange for the presence of such will automatically go in front of the Discipline Board and are subject to suspension or expulsion. A Marian parent hosting an alcohol/drug-free party who discovers students using alcohol or drugs, and/or bringing them into the party, IDEALLY, should immediately report the underage drinking to local police authorities and immediately call the parents of the students involved so that they and the police can deal with the problem. Anything less than this may be interpreted as approval or consent. Doing less is an option, but it weakens the parents' credibility regarding his/her intent for a drug/alcohol-free party. Doing nothing is consent.