TO: Parents and/or Guardians with a child or children in the Meyersdale Area School District

The Meyersdale Area School District has adopted a policy for random (except where a specific reason or reasonable basis for non-random testing exists) drug testing for students in grades 6-12 whose parents' consent. This testing is applicable to **ALL** Meyersdale students. The school district does not solely limit the testing to athletes or students involved in any of our extra-curricular activities.

We request that you help us to maintain a drug free school by consenting to have your child participate.

Students who are selected will provide a sample that will test for amphetamines, cocaine metabolite, marijuana metabolite, opiates-heroin, phencyclidine, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, methadone, methaqualone, propoxyphene. The screening will be co-supervised by Somerset UPMC personnel and Meyersdale Area High School District personnel. We will observe all legal rules for chain of custody at both the collection and analysis sites. (Chain of custody refers to the security of handling the obtained sample from the point of collection to the final destination of the laboratory including identification, labeling, sealing, and testing).

The SATDTC (Student Assistance Team Drug Testing Coordinator) will receive a confidential report of the test results. The high school principal and middle school principal and the SATDTC will promptly notify the parent/caregiver of the student upon receipt of test results. If the sample tests positive, a second verification can be requested by the parent/caregiver. This is also dependent on whether the lab has enough to retest. If the second test is negative, no further action is taken. The administration will provide written notice to the parent/caregiver of those students who successfully test negative.

The test is to be used as a deterrent rather than as a disciplinary tool. However, those who test positive will be notified by the principal/middle school principal and the SATDTC and will be:

1. Required to meet with the high school principal and middle school principal, the SATDTC and with
   his/her parents/guardians.
2. Required to participate in the District's Student Assistance Program and complete a drug and alcohol evaluation.
3. Required to comply with the drug and alcohol evaluator's recommendations as failure to comply will result in exclusion from participation in any activity. For students not involved in an activity, the school will cooperate with parents to determine appropriate follow-up action.
4. Disqualification from further participation in any activity as outlined in the Controlled Substance/Paraphrenia Policy regarding Testing for Students.

Involved students will be randomly selected. A student may also be called for testing if there is a specific reason to suspect that there may be a problem. Should any student refuse to submit a

sampling for testing, he/she will be disqualified from participation in any activity as specified in the policy.

We will select a percentage of students periodically from the pool of students that have been given parental consent. The percentage may vary from 10% to 100% depending on the activity and circumstances. The test will not be announced prior to the actual date of screening. Testing results will be held in strict confidence as provided in the policy. We will continue to follow our School District Board Policy on Controlled Substance/Paraphrenia concerning the use, possession, or distribution of illegal substances on school premises and possessing, using, or distributing on non-school time.

Parents may request, through the high school principal, middle school principal, or the SATDTC that their child be tested (such a test will not affect the random sampling percentage for an activity or testing pool). These students will still be subject to the drug testing provision of the policy. Cost of this testing will be paid for by the school district.

We thank you for your support and assistance in keeping controlled substances out of our school. This letter summarizes our policy, but you are encouraged to read the policy itself.

Please check whether or not you wish to participate and sign at the bottom of this form online through the Parent Portal on Focus or return it to the school:

Secondary School Principal
Meyersdale Area High School
1349 Shaw Mines Road
Meyersdale, PA 15552

Respectfully,

Matthew Gombita
Secondary School Principal

I give permission for my child to be tested _____yes _____no

Student Name:_____

Signature:_____